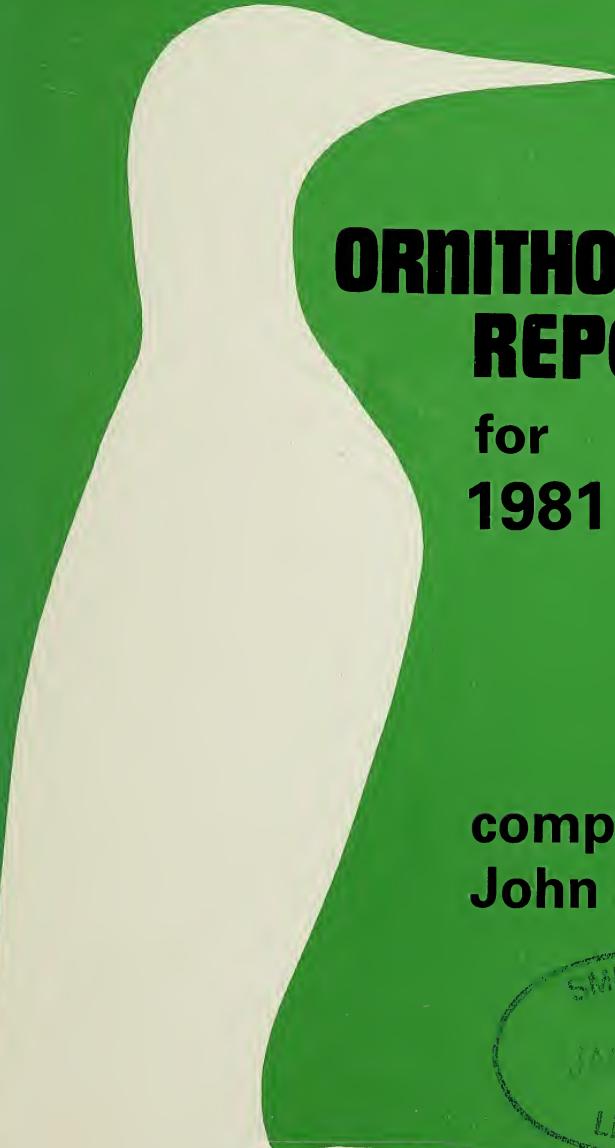


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# Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



## ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT for 1981

compiled by  
John E. Dale



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# Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Ornithological Section

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## Report for 1981      Edited by John E. Dale

Of the 275 species recorded in Yorkshire during 1981, five were new to the County list. The first of these was a Cattle Egret at Duncombe Park, Helmsley, which was present from at least 29th March to 7th April. There has been a marked increase in records of this species in Britain in very recent years. A Greater Sand Plover found feeding on the Humber shore at Kilnsea on 29th July was seen there, and at Chalk Bank Spurn, up to 6th August, and was only the fifth British record of this Asiatic wader. Examination of a mist net at the Warren at Spurn, early on the morning of 24th August, revealed a River Warbler which, after being released nearby, was not seen again. This was only the sixth occurrence in Britain of a species which breeds as near as Central Europe. The most unexpected arrival was that of a Hudsonian Godwit, which appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 10th September. Its identity was not established until a few days before the end of its stay on 3rd October. This wader, which is quite rare in its native North America, was not only new to Britain, but also to the Western Palearctic. Finally, an Olive-backed Pipit was at Spurn from 24th October to 1st November.

Other species appearing for only the second time were a Melodious Warbler at Flamborough on 14th May; a Baird's Sandpiper at Blacktoft Sands on 15th August; a Booted Warbler at Spurn on 5th September; a Desert Warbler at Flamborough on 24th October, and two Penduline Tits at Blacktoft Sands on 25th November, which remained for over a month. Also of extreme rarity for the County were a Spotted Sandpiper at Blacktoft Sands on 27th August, and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Armthorpe, Doncaster, which, as is often the case with this species, died not long after being found.

138 species were proved to have bred, and probably a further nine species also bred, but information was limited for these as some observers understandably withheld certain details.

A number of records that have not been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee are published in this report. Such records have been very carefully examined by the Yorkshire Reports Committee. The Committee maintain that as they have inevitably much closer knowledge of the observers concerned, they are in certain cases better able to assess the veracity of these records.

In the brief chronological summary which follows only a few of the more interesting occurrences are included.

The first two months were mild, with the few cold spells being of short duration. A Ring-necked Duck was at Tophill Low Res. as the year opened, and was joined by another during the second week. Two Firecrests were at Spurn, and other interesting species included a Purple Heron at Wheldrake; a Golden Eagle at Gouthwaite; a Sabine's Gull at Flamborough,

and three Grey Phalaropes on the coast, as were good numbers of Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. 700 Snow Buntings at Kilnsea on 4th January, and Lapland Buntings there, and at Barmston and Filey, during January. A Surf Scoter passed Filey on 20th January, and at the month end large numbers of Wigeon and Mallard were at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge. Eccup Res. had as usual a substantial flock of Goosander, with 139 on 25th January. Also well inland near Leeds and Doncaster, were the largest flocks of Brambling for the year.

During February high numbers of Wigeon, Teal and Mallard congregated on the Derwent floods, where Bewick's Swans again wintered in good strength. 52 Ruff in mid-month at Stone Creek, where that species now winters fairly regularly. Knot and Dunlin jointly numbered over 30,000 on 15th February along the Humber shore, and 1,300 Curlew were at Stone Creek.

Warm southerly winds from mid-March brought some early summer visitors, such as Wheatear and Chiffchaff on 7th; Sand Martin on 12th; Ring Ouzel on 15th; Garganey on 20th; Little Ringed Plover on 21st; Swallow on 24th; Yellow Wagtail on 25th, and Willow Warbler on 27th. Firecrest and Cattle Egret appeared at the month end, but the Hoopoe near Bridlington may have been in the area since late 1980.

Temperatures climbed in mid-April, and large influxes of Swallows, Willow Warblers, Yellow Wagtails, and Blackcaps occurred, whilst early individuals of normally later arriving species such as Garden Warbler, Reed Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Swift, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, and Whinchat appeared. On 15th April an Ashy-headed Wagtail was at Blacktoft Sands. The month of April finished with a very severe, and unseasonal spell of north-easterly blizzards, which brought heavy snow to some parts, and was detrimental to early migrants and nesting residents.

Fortunately the weather improved in May, and on the 1st a Quail was near York, heralding a good influx a few weeks later. Dotterel, now more frequently recorded, appeared at seven places in the next three weeks. After 50 Black Terns at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd, a marked passage occurred from 7th to 17th with birds at 19 places. Other interesting species during May included two late Lapland Buntings at Flamborough on 4th, and also on that headland Melodious Warbler on 14th, and Little Bunting on 18th. Bluethroats of the red-spotted race at Spurn on 11th and white-spotted at Blacktoft Sands on 12th; a Bee-eater at Spurn on 14th, and at two other localities during the month; on 15th at Tophill Low Res. the first of five Temminck's Stints; and during the next few days Spoonbills and Avocets at Spurn and Welwick; a Red-footed Falcon at Allerton Bywater, and after Kentish Plovers at two places, the month ended with 60 Little Gulls, and 12 Black Terns at Broomfleet.

A wedge of high pressure on 1st June brought easterly winds, and a Red-footed Falcon to Spurn. During the next week a Golden Oriole was at Fairburn; three Bee-eaters were at Parlington Park, and a Woodchat Shrike at Welton Water.

Little out of the ordinary occurred until late July, when a strong area of high pressure established itself from Britain into Scandinavia, resulting in north-easterly winds. Three Pomarine Skuas were well inland at Blacktoft Sands on 27th, on which day a White-rumped Sandpiper arrived at Tophill Low Res., and on 29th the Greater Sand Plover was at Spurn, and a Pectoral Sandpiper at Blacktoft Sands.

A series of depressions up against a Scandinavian high pressure area brought heavy rain, and north-east winds from 5th to 8th August. On the last date two Aquatic Warblers were at Spurn, a Greenish Warbler at Flamborough, and a White-winged Black Tern at Hornsea. Flamborough also had six Icterine Warblers, four Red-backed Shrikes, a Barred Warbler, and a White-winged Black Tern on 8th and 9th August. On 15th August an Arctic Warbler was at Scarborough, and a Baird's Sandpiper at Blacktoft Sands. It was not an exceptional year for seawatching, but depressions bringing north-westerlies between 16th and 23rd August produced five Cory's and one Great Shearwater, and the maximum counts for the year of Sooty Shearwater, and Arctic Skua. With high pressure over Scandinavia again on 23rd north-east winds returned bringing in modest numbers of less common birds, plus a River Warbler at Spurn on 24th. On 27th a Spotted Sandpiper at Blacktoft Sands, and at the month end, with the weather pattern continuing, near coastal sites had at least 13 Wrynecks, six Barred Warblers, and singles of Lesser Grey Shrike, Red-backed Shrike, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Icterine Warbler, whilst at Blacktoft a Buff-breasted Sandpiper joined the now 150-strong flock of Ruff.

In early September Spurn had two more exceptional visitors with an Arctic Warbler on 2nd, and a Booted Warbler on 5th, and here the only Ortolan Bunting of the year on the 7th. Potteric

Carr had a flock of 500 Yellow Wagtails during this first week. The weather broke on the 8th, and a vigorous depression swept in off the Atlantic, bringing to a halt vagrants from the east, but a Hudsonian Godwit appeared at Blacktoft Sands on 10th, and 81 Black Terns went south at Spurn on 11th. A considerable build up by County standards of Little Stints (86), and Curlew Sandpipers (72), occurred at Blacktoft Sands about 15th September, at which date Tophill Low Res. had 62 Ruff, and also on 13th, a Pectoral Sandpiper. Spurn in general reported a quiet autumn for total numbers of both visible, and nocturnal, passage migrants, apart from an isolated peak of Swallow passage on 4th and 5th September, and also Siskins and Redpolls passing in good numbers from late September into November. Finally, at the end of September, a Tawny Pipit was near the lighthouse at Spurn on 26th, and a Gull-billed Tern was off Flamborough Head on 29th.

On 3rd October south-east winds from a depression pushing into the long stationary high over Central Europe, brought further eastern arrivals at various places in the next few days including two Yellow-browed Warblers, a Bluethroat and two Woodlarks, and at Filey, a Richard's Pipit. Also at this time a Long-billed Dowitcher was at Fairburn. Redwings came in during the first week of October, followed by small numbers of Fieldfares on 10th, and two Lapland Buntings on 11th, on which day Spurn had its peak of a good Kestrel passage. Westerly winds persisted for a week, but then a Scandinavian high brought north-east winds on 17th and 18th, and an obvious fall including nine Yellow-browed Warblers; four Pallas's Warblers; six Firecrests; eleven Shore Larks; a Great Grey Shrike, and a Red-breasted Flycatcher. A marked influx of Blackbirds also commenced on 18th October. Single Siberian Stonechats were at Flamborough Head on 18th and 21st, where there was a Desert Warbler on 24th, the day on which an Olive-backed Pipit was located at Spurn. Two days later a Richard's Pipit was at Hornsea, and another was at Spurn on 27th, when six Bean Geese arrived for a short stay. A strong southerly movement of Little Gulls was noted at Easington and Spurn, in late October and early November.

November was not remarkable for unusual visitors, but a late Osprey was at Swinsty on the 14th, the day on which the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found near Doncaster. Two Penduline Tits at Blacktoft Sands on 25th attracted much attention for the rest of the year, and there was a late Yellow-browed Warbler at Flamborough on 30th.

December was marked by a very cold spell from the 11th, when blizzards from the north brought freezing conditions, and considerable snow cover. Many reservoirs and other wetlands froze completely. As a result of this situation cold weather movements were noted for many species, resulting in a considerable drop in overall numbers of birds in the County by the year end. Amongst interesting records were widespread reports of Bitterns; a total of nine Smew in the County; 11 White-fronted Geese on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge; Spotted Redshanks at a few places; 1,000 Corn Buntings at Spurn on 14th, and 650 at Filey on 25th. A massive influx of Woodcock occurred, probably in two waves, in mid to late December, with exceptionally high counts at Atwick, Filey, Flamborough, and Hornsea, on various dates.

The Reports Committee wishes to acknowledge the support of the local recorders, and the many observers throughout the County who have submitted information to the YNU.

I also wish to thank the vice-county recorders and other members of the committee for their assistance during the year.

John E. Dale, June 1983



## Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in this report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers, and have also been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee where applicable, unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H. *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977) B.O.U. 1977

### **Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata***

Peak numbers along the coast occurred between early January, and early April. During January, Flamborough had 107 on 11th, and 116 on 24th, on which date Filey had 109 north, and 54 south; and on 25th, 177 flew south at Withernsea, and 175 were off Flamborough. In February the only three figure counts were 116 on 4th, and 204 on 8th at Flamborough. The highest numbers for the year were in March, with on 7th, 141 north at Spurn, and 131 at Flamborough; then on 8th, 567 south at Withernsea in two hours (SML), and 363 at Flamborough; and later in the month 400 passed Spurn on 22nd, and 103 went south at Withernsea on 29th. Finally, an obvious northerly passage off Spurn in April, with 220 on 5th, and 275 on 6th.

Comparatively small numbers up to December, with only 12 singles during June and July, plus two at Scarborough on 14th July. On 5th December, 87 flew south at Filey, and 34 passed Spurn, and Withernsea had 90 on 14th, and Flamborough 136 on 16th.

Inland, singles at Pugney's G.P. from 17th to 19th January; at Winterset Res. on 4th April, and at Hornsea Mere from 4th to 12th April. A diver, probably this species, flew over Fairburn Ings on 15th February.

### **Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica***

The regular coastal watch points at Scalby Mills, Filey Brigg, Flamborough Head, Barmston, and Spurn Point had singles on a total of 19 days up to late May, plus five at Flamborough on 24th January (PAL), and two each at Barmston on 22nd March (KR), Spurn on 5th April, and Flamborough on 31st May.

One at Flamborough on 23rd August, then either one or two there on 13 days to the year end, plus three on 22nd, and five on 26th September (DIMW). One to two on 14 days at Spurn from early September to early December, and four on 1st November. Elsewhere, three at Barmston on 1st November (CJS); singles at Filey on 21st, 22nd and 24th November (HJW *et al.*), and at Scarborough on 29th December.

There were only three inland records. One, first seen on the River Hull near Tophill Low on 12th January, was most likely the bird that commuted between Hornsea Mere and Brandesburton and Catwick G.P.s from 31st January to 14th March, and was at Brandesburton from 27th March to 6th April (IP, BR). One found dead at Ardsley Res. on 27th January (JM). One at Thrybergh Res. on 23rd April (AR, SHH).

### **Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer***

The few during the early months were all singles, being at Flamborough on 8th February, 15th March and 19th April (PAL, IS); at Spurn on 7th March, and at Barmston on 14th March (AJL). The 12th July was an unusual date for one at Flamborough, where there was another on 30th August (PAL). Spurn had two south on 14th and 15th September, and one north on 16th. A slightly wider scattering of records in October with singles in Bridlington Bay on 4th (CJS); at Spurn on 5th; at Filey on 13th; and at Flamborough on 12th, 18th and 31st; and then one at Barmston on 1st November, and one at Spurn on 7th. An apparent influx during the latter part of November, with at Filey, two on 19th, three on 21st, four on 22nd, and three on 23rd (PJD, TIC, HJW); one at Barmston on 28th (SML); two at Flamborough on 25th (AG), and one in Cornelian Bay on 29th (KR). During December singles at Filey on 1st (PAD, VAL), and at Flamborough on 5th, and 19th (AMA, DGH *et al.*).

One at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th and 6th October (CH, KH, JED).

### **Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

Bred in V.C. 61 at Aughton, and an adult and juvenile were on Hornsea Mere on 27th July. Nine at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in the autumn was the highest number at any site in the eastern vice-counties.

Reported from 30 waters in V.C. 63 in the breeding season, on which 29 successful pairs reared 77 young. Maxima on waters in the west of the county were 31 at Wath Ings on 15th March; 25 at Mickletown Ings on 5th, and 35 at Swillington Ings on 6th September; and 26 at Fairburn Ings on 16th November.

During a freeze up from 13th December many moved onto rivers, and 15 were on the River Dearne on 20th December.

### **Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***

The coastal waters off Fraisthorpe and Barmston attracted large numbers, with a maximum on 24th January of 118, which declined to 63 by 14th March. There were 30 here on 28th November, and 56 on 13th December (SML, AJL, IF).

Bred at Hornsea Mere, Burshill G.P. and Welton Water in V.C. 61; four pairs reared a total of ten young. 25 on Hornsea Mere on 14th October.

In V.C. 63 some 37 waters held 55 pairs, and 54 young were reared.

Successful breeding reported for 28 pairs in V.C. 64. Two pairs at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. in V.C. 65.

Maxima of 31 at Wintersett Res. on 15th March; 52 at Pugneys' G.P. on 2nd July; 31 at Swillington Ings on 16th August, and 48 at Fairburn Ings on 24th and 25th October. Many singles inland during mild weather in January, but none after 19th December, during the severe spell at the year end.

### **Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena***

One, first seen in Filey Bay on 2nd January (RHA), remained until 9th March, and another in summer plumage was there from 3rd to 9th April. Singles at Flamborough on 1st and 29th March.

Flamborough had singles on 26th July; 8th and 10th August; 13th and 20th September, and 7th November, and two on 21st August (PAL, IS, JH, DS *et al*). One at Filey from 3rd October to 22nd December, and two on 17th and 19th October (SC, PJD, TIC, HJW). Singles at Spurn on 14th October, and at Scarborough on 1st (PAD), and from 24th to 31st December (SML, MDW).

Inland, singles at Hornsea Mere on 19th September, 3rd October, 14th November, and 6th to 8th December (SML, IJP); at Pugney's G.P. on 4th October (PH, PS *et al*), and at Castle Howard on 30th November (DW).

### **Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus***

One at Scarborough on 17th January (RHA, WAC), and one off Filey Brigg on 25th February (PJD). Singles at Flamborough on 26th July, 21st August, 13th September, 24th October, and 7th November (PAL, IS, JH, DGH, DS, DIMW). One at Filey on 6th October (WC, SC, HJW), and one on the Easington lagoons on 5th December (JC).

Inland, summer plumaged birds at Pugney's G.P. on 12th May (DP *et al*), and at Tophill Low Res. on 20th and 21st May, from 14th to 21st June, and again on 28th June (PH). Two immatures at Fairburn Ings from 26th August to 3rd September, with one remaining to 5th (SCM). Singles at Mickletown Ings on 1st September (DM), and at Tophill Low Res. on 30th December (KR).

### **Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis***

Three in summer plumage in the bay south of Bridlington on 10th April (CJS). Singles at Bridlington on 30th August (GRB, CJS), and at Flamborough on 13th December (DS).

### **Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis***

Breeds in good numbers along the cliffs from Flamborough Head northwards.

690 passed Flamborough on 10th January, and 350 passed Filey Brigg in an hour on 19th January, and 492 went south there in two hours on 28th February. April maxima moving north on 19th of 628 at Spurn, and 600 off Flamborough, and on 25th 1,709 passed Filey Brigg in five hours. 636 passed Spurn on 18th June, mainly going north.

On 24th July, 600 per hour passed north off Filey, and 1,800 passed Flamborough. Numbers at Spurn were moderate with a peak of southerly movement of 370 on 15th August, and 320 on 20th. The only large numbers at the year end were reported from Flamborough, with 680 on 8th; 1,400 on 14th, 2,750 on 28th November, and 2,500 on 5th December.

Blue phase birds at Spurn on 20th April, 17th and 26th June; at Flamborough seven on 27th April; and at Filey on the cliffs one on 26th and 27th March, and 4th April.

Inland, one over Harrogate town centre on 15th June, and one over Otley Chevin on 16th June, and other singles over Brownhill Res. on 12th July, and Knaresborough R.S. on 19th July, and over Whitton Sands, and Blacktoft Sands on 25th August.

### **Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea***

Singles off Spurn on 11th June, flying south (RPC) and on 16th August, flying north (RPC, SML). One was offshore at Filey for two hours on 9th August (MJG, PJD, HJW), and singles flew south off Flamborough on 15th August (KR) and off Filey (MJG, HJW) and Flamborough (AMA, DGH, PAL) on 22nd August.

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

One north off Flamborough on 16th August (DIMW), and two north on 13th September (AMA). Not yet submitted to British Birds Rarities Committee.

### **Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis***

One north off Flamborough on 22nd August (DGH, SR, TPI, CI) and one south on 31st August (AMA).

### **Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus***

As in 1980 it was again a rather moderate year for sightings of this species.

The first was one at Flamborough on 27th June, then one at Filey on 18th July and five at Scarborough on 23rd. On 24th July, three at Scarborough; two at Filey; 13 at Flamborough; two at Spurn, and three there the following day. More frequent during August, the peaks at the regular localities being ten at Spurn on 16th; 35 at Flamborough on 17th; 52 on 21st; 42 on 23rd; and over 20 on 16th, 22nd and 31st; and at Filey, six on 21st.

Spurn had five on 1st September, then one to two on nine days to 22nd October, and Flamborough had five on 13th and 14th October, and less on a few days up to the last one on 7th November.

### **Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus***

An early record of two flying north at Scarborough on 10th January (RHA).

One at Filey on 4th, and two on 11th April, then 18 at Flamborough on 19th, with smaller numbers at these localities, and Spurn until July, except for 12 at Filey on 16th, and 19 on 26th May; and, moving north at Spurn, 116 on 17th June, and 221 on 18th June.

Higher numbers during July, with 77 at Spurn on 23rd, and on 25th a strong northerly movement of 92 at Spurn; 824 at Flamborough; and 137 at Filey; and on 26th, 137 at Flamborough. During August, apart from 75 south at Filey on 8th, and 34 on 21st, the only high numbers were off Flamborough with 145 on 15th; 106 on 16th; 201 on 17th, and 108 on 21st. Numbers were quite small during September, and were also small during the autumn at Hornsea, Cowden and Withernsea.

The last were three at Filey on 10th October; three at Spurn on 20th, and two at Flamborough on 22nd October.

Birds showing characteristics of the Balearic race *P. p. mauretanicus* were singles at Flamborough on 20th June, 19th July, 16th August, 22nd August, and 18th September; and two on 21st and 23rd August, and eight on 4th October (AMA, DH, DGH, PAL, EAM, IS, DIMW); and also one at Filey on 9th September (PJD).

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*

Singles at Flamborough on 26th September, and 22nd October (DIMW). Not yet submitted to British Birds Rarities Committee.

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One picked up dead by the Holmfirth to Woodhead road at Holme Moss on 18th October.

**Gannet** *Sula bassana*

The number of breeding pairs at the colony on Bempton Cliffs increased to 312, and about 200 non-breeders were present during the summer.

The highest numbers were noted at Spurn, Flamborough and Filey, and significant maxima are listed below.

Spurn had 115 on 19th April; 365 on 18th June, mainly north; 100 on 25th July; 136 on 15th and 230 on 16th August, mainly south; and 144 on 26th, and 151 on 27th September.

At Flamborough 330 on 4th April; 385 on 4th May; 558 on 21st, and 528 on 28th June; 1,021 on 24th July; 920 on 23rd August; 450 on 14th, and 420 on 27th September.

From Filey Brigg, 154 on 28th February; 165 on 2nd May; 161 on 13th June; 173 on 7th, and 206 on 30th August, and 239 on 26th September.

Inland, an immature flew over Tophill Low Res. on 6th September, and single sub-adults flew north-west over Plompton on 12th September (AO'N), and between Barnburgh and High Melton on 11th November (DDOS).

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Small numbers breeding on cliffs from Flamborough northwards.

At Filey 52 were on the cliffs north of the Brigg on 21st April. Counts at coastal watch points were average with maxima of 65 at Flamborough on 23rd August, and 80 on 13th September and 64 north in one hour at Filey Brigg on 26th August. At Spurn the maximum count of this, and the next species, Shag, was 80 on 3rd September.

Hornsea Mere had 45 on 18th February and 60 on 19th December.

A marked increase in the total number of inland records particularly at Tophill Low Res., along the River Humber, and at sites in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64.

Tophill Low Res. had under ten in the early months, but 25 on 28th November, and 37 on 11th December. Bolton-on-Swale G.P. had up to 18 during the winter months. Four at Naburn S.W. on 28th March; up to four at Wheldrake between 3rd and 6th May; three over Broomhill Flash on 12th April; three at Swillington on 27th August, and at Fairburn Ings on 30th September and 6th October. Several small parties passed over Blacktoft Sands, usually flying inland, including four on 22nd March; six on 18th May; seven on 15th June; five on 12th October, and four on 28th November.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Up to 20 pairs bred on Bempton Cliffs, and these, along with pairs on the whole of the Flamborough peninsular, appear to be doing well.

Maximum counts from Flamborough were of 125 on 22nd March; 108 on 13th June; 208 on 22nd August; 105 on 24th October, and 108 on 11th November. Maxima elsewhere of six at Spurn on 14th September, and 20 at Filey Brigg on 26th November.

Inland, one at Castle Howard on 8th October.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

Singles at Hornsea Mere on 11th March; Knotford Nook on 27th April (PGJ), and Fairburn Ings on 24th July (BG, GRW, HJW).

An unusual number of records during the last three months probably involved at least nine individuals.

One at Blacktoft Sands on 4th and 12th October, and another on 28th December (AG). One at Tophill Low Res. on 11th November (PWI); one at Cayton Carrs on 22nd November (AD, RL), and one at Fairburn Ings on 29th (DF, CJ, KR, TR). Singles at Hornsea Mere on 12th,

16th and 23rd December (SML, JP), and near Wheldrake on 12th December (GS). One found dead alongside the main road in Bilton, Hull on 26th December, and one was on the 'canal' at Spurn on 30th December.

#### **Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

One at Duncombe Park, Helmsley from 5th to 7th April had probably been there since 29th March (PJD, KD and Mr Ellerby). The first record for the County.

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

Heronries reported included that of the Lower Derwent with 13 pairs present; at Kirkdale with 26 nests occupied on 21st April; at Crathorne near Yarm where six nests were built; at Mowthorpe near Scarborough breeding probably occurred again; at a new heronry at Bretton Park, two pairs reared seven young, and finally in V.C. 64, three heronries were occupied, including Healaugh with 30 nests in late April.

Outside the breeding season several localities had seven to ten birds regularly, and higher numbers were at Wath Ings, 17 on 5th and 28th August; Blacktoft Sands 16 on 17th August; Gouthwaite Res. 14 on 28th August; Lindley Res. 33 on 24th September, and 24 on 17th October; Johnsons' Marsh at Scarborough, 14 on 27th September, and Humber Wildfowl Refuge 11 on 17th October.

#### **Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea***

A sub-adult at Wheldrake Ings on 4th January, was found dead on 21st February (TB, BB, TMC).

On the evidence submitted this record was *not accepted* by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia***

Single adults at Spurn and Easington lagoons on 16th and 17th May, and at Welwick on 17th (SML). One flew over Spurn from the east, and departed south-west on 5th June, and one flew south over the Humber at Spurn on 7th June. An adult at Hornsea Mere on four days, between 6th June and 21st June, and another on 20th July (SML, IJP). An adult at Whitton Sands on 24th June flew across the river towards Blacktoft Sands (TE), where it remained to the 25th, with another, an immature. An immature at Winterset Res. on 2nd December (SD).

#### **Mute Swan *Cygnus olor***

The largest flocks reported early in the year were in the Aire valley, with 51 at Mickletown Ings on 14th February, and 71 at Fairburn Ings on 25th April. Moultling herds of 162 at Hornsea Mere on 12th July and 22nd August, and 172 at Fairburn Ings on 27th July. 63 at Pugney's G.P. on 21st November. Eight south at Spurn on 23rd December during the severe spell.

In V.C. 63 at nine breeding sites, 16 pairs reared 64 young.

#### **Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus***

The highest numbers were along the Lower Derwent, with 245 during January; and February and March peaks of 170 and 161 respectively, down to two at Aughton on 17th April (YOC). Seven localities had from one to eight, usually for no more than one day, up to early April, and similar numbers appeared during November and December at 17 sites for short stays. Winterset Res. had 11 on 4th February; 58 were at Digley Res. on 1st and 2nd March on which date and 3rd, 55 were at Pugney's G.P.; 23 near Settle on 6th March; 25 and 13 flew east over Blacktoft Sands on 6th and 9th March; 22 on the Humber off Easington on 8th, and 13 at Gouthwaite Res. on 17th March. One at Bielby in V.C. 61 on 17th May.

The first to return were eight over Aughton on 24th October. Nine at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 6th November, and 13 at Tophill Low Res. on 8th. Only 20 reported on the Lower Derwent during December, and 22 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 17th December. A total of nine passed south-east over Spurn on 5th December, and ten flew west over Blacktoft Sands on 10th. 24 flew over Sawdon, Scarborough on 31st December.

### **Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus***

Some ten localities had up to a dozen birds, many of which remained for several weeks during the period from January to mid-March.

Wheldrake Ings had 109 on 4th January, and the Lower Derwent held 34 on 14th February, and 59 on 8th March, and 16 were at North Duffield on 24th March. An injured bird remained at Wheldrake throughout the year. Good numbers in the Aire valley again, with 84 at Fairburn Ings on 26th January, and 82 at Byram Park on 8th February. 17 at Kirkby Fleetham on 17th January; 22 at Bolton-on-Swale up to March; 21 at Great Langton on 22nd February, and 20 at Wigglesworth on 15th March. Last ones at Gouthwaite Res. on 17th and Thrybergh on 19th April.

On 8th March over 40 flew over Skipton, and what was probably the same flock, counted as 51, flew down the Washburn Valley. One in the Knaresborough area until 27th May, and from 29th July to 15th October.

Although appearing at 18 localities, after the first nine at Thrybergh on 5th October, numbers were generally less than ten, apart from the Fairburn Ings flock which peaked at 106 on 13th December, and then during a freeze-up declined to seven by 31st. 20 on the Lower Derwent in the last two months; 14 south at Tophill Low on 22nd November; 20 west up Wensleydale near Redmire on 5th December, and 15 west at Filey on 7th November. 28 at Swillington Ings on 13th December.

### **Bean Goose *Anser fabalis***

One at Hornsea Mere on 22nd March (IJP). Five flying east at Irton near Seamer on 16th April (MF), and one south off Flamborough on 4th May (PAL, DIMW).

One on the Upper Humber at Whitton Sands on 11th and 12th September (TE). Six at Kilnsea and Spurn from 27th to 29th October (SML *et al*). Two at Wheldrake Ings from 6th November to the year end, with a third noted on six dates during the period (DW, TB).

### **Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus***

A rapid increase in numbers at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge during January, with 639 on 20th; then 1,440 on 22nd, peaking at 1,630 on 24th, and falling again to 760 on 27th, and 572 by 17th February, though frequently less than 100 during February (AC). The first of the autumn were ten on 13th September, rising to 129 by 1st October; 607 on 13th; 900 on 18th, and 1,060 on 24th; down to only 71 on 5th November, and generally less than 100 to the year end (AC).

On 5th January skeins going west of 190 at Wath, and 150 at Ingbirchworth; and on 9th 250 at Ecclesall. Smaller skeins of 30 to 75 over nine localities, in the southern half of the county during January and February.

800 over Blacktoft Sands on 25th January, and 600 on 22nd October.

The largest skeins of autumn were 200 west over Scawthorpe on 24th October; 120 and 103 east over Ewden Beck on 22nd November, and 100 west over Concord Park, Sheffield on 14th December.

Up to five at Hornsea Mere up to 5th May, and one on 3rd and 6th June.

### **White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons***

Singles at Hornsea Mere from 10th to 15th March, and near Settle on 11th March.

Singles at Barmston on 25th October, and at Flamborough on 8th November. 11 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 11th December (AC). Three at both Filey and Hornsea Mere on 24th December.

### **Greylag Goose *Anser anser***

Bred in V.C. 61 at Hornsea Mere, Burton Constable, East Park (Hull), Brandesburton, Tophill Low Res., and Wheldrake Ings, and in V.C. 64 at Ripon Race Course G.P.

The species is increasing in many localities, particularly in V.C. 61, and in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 parties of up to 20 occurred at ten sites. Hornsea Mere had the highest numbers in the county with 194 on 17th January; then down to under 100 until after the breeding season, followed by a peak of 248 on 12th September, then much lower numbers until December, when the years maximum of 273 occurred on the 18th. Other flocks included 63 at Great Langton in

January and February; maxima on the Lower Derwent of 94 on 14th February; 120 on 11th June and 105 on 13th December, and also 200 at Wheldrake on 6th November; 30 at Whitton Sands from 8th to 13th August, and at Blacktoft Sands on 31st where 28 appeared on 20th September; 54 at Tophill Low Res. on 27th September, down to 23 by 31st December, and 25 at Barmston on 29th September, and 23 at Bolton-on-Swale on 19th November.

The largest skeins were those of 110 over Huddersfield on 8th January; 64 up Nidderdale on 24th January, and 120 east over Roche Abbey on 22nd November.

Skeins reported as being grey geese, were of 80 over Ilkley on 5th January; 150 north at Grimesgill on 24th January, and 100 over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 1st March.

#### **Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens***

Up to three, including one blue phase, were in the Harrogate and Leeds areas for much of the year. Two blue phase on various dates during March and April, and from September to December, at Wheldrake, York, Storwood, Haxby, and Castle Howard. One near Tophill Low Res. on 12th March. Five immatures south past Filey Brigg on 23rd May. One at Gouthwaite Res. in June was probably a hybrid.

It is not possible to prove that any were of wild origin.

#### **Canada Goose *Branta canadensis***

Breeding quite widespread, being at up to ten sites in V.C. 61; eight sites in V.C. 63, and at numerous sites in V.C. 64, including four pairs on Barden Moor.

The usual localities held large flocks during much of the year, the maxima being as follows: Leighton Res. 300 on 12th January; Givendale 756 in January, and 500 in November and December; Harewood Park 400 in February, and 480 on 18th October; Lower Derwent 162 in February, and 125 in December; Hornsea Mere 130 on 11th June; Eccup Res. 500 on 1st September; Masham 612 in September; Pugney's G.P. 223 in late September; and Bretton Park 210 on 15th November.

Some coastal movement probably associated with the moult migration occurred during June, with six at North Bay, Scarborough on 6th, and seven south-east at Spurn on the same day; then two south at Brompton and Filey on 7th; 13 at Filey on 13th; 27 at Flamborough; and 17 at Spurn on 14th, all moving south.

Numbers arrived at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge during the autumn with a maximum of 67 on 3rd September.

#### **Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis***

A party of 19 at Hornsea Mere up to 22nd March; one of these remained, and up to four were seen regularly to the end of November, also nine on 7th June; 17 on 5th and ten on 8th July, and 15 throughout December (IJP).

Singles at Stone Creek on 4th January; at Tophill Low Res. from 8th February to 1st March, on 12th April, and on 15th, and from 22nd to 28th November; at Filey on 4th March, where 16 flew south on 28th April, and at Barmston on 14th June.

One to three regularly in the Harrogate area throughout the year. Up to 12 at Harewood until April; four during the summer, and up to 15 from October. Two at Fairburn Ings to 17th April, and three at Stocks Res. on 15th May. Some movement during April, with three south at Blacktoft Sands on 12th; five east at Scarborough on 18th, and 21 over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 25th. On 24th May, two south at Spurn, where eight flew north, and one came in off the sea on 7th October. Five alighted on Beacon Ponds on 13th October before flying south. 12 at Harthill Res. on 16th October. Some would not be of wild origin.

Addition to the 1980 Report: The adult at Hornsea Mere from 21st October to 2nd November, had been ringed on Spitzbergen on 23rd July 1977, as an adult.

#### **Brent Goose *Branta bernicla***

The flock on the Humber shore at Spurn was rather smaller than in 1980, but still held substantial numbers. Peaks for the early months were 154 on 3rd January; 160 on 27th February, and 87 on 1st March. After no more than four from 6th to 25th March, and on 2nd April, the last

were two on 30th April. 16 flew south offshore on 17th January. Three returned on 3rd October, but the real build up commenced on 15th increasing to 122 on 24th, then 66 to 112 to the month end, and similar numbers in early November with 186 on 10th. Fewer in late November, but double figures during December, and 118 on 19th. A few first-year birds present including four on 14th February, and seven on 11th November.

Small numbers along the coast both early and late in the year, on only six days, including six at Filey on 14th March, 12 between Faxfleet and Brough on 15th March, and singles at Whitton Sands on 12th April, and at Wheldrake Ings on 7th April, and 15th November.

An adult showing characters of the race *B. b. horta* on the Humber at Spurn between 25th February and 1st March.

#### **Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna***

Bred at at least eight inland sites, and along the upper and lower reaches of the Humber estuary. Two pairs at Bolton-on-Swale reared 12 young, and single pairs at York University, and near Settle each reared seven young. Of the 12 pairs that bred in the Lower Derwent, two used straw stacks as their nest sites (YOC). Other pairs at Tytham Hall G.P., near Tophill Low Res. Brandesburton and Catwick G.P.s, and at Lissett. Poor breeding success at Blacktoft Sands where nests were flooded by high spring tides.

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had over 200 from mid-March to November with peaks of 1,200 on 7th July, and 980 on 6th October. 295 at Cherry Cob on 3rd May. A total of 715 flying east at Spurn on 27 days between 17th April and 13th September, mainly in July, with 172 on 11th, and 120 on 14th.

Apart from the maxima of 110 at Blacktoft Sands on 18th May, and 70 along the Lower Derwent on 15th March, the many inland records away from these sites were usually of one to seven birds. Exceptions were 20 west over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 7th July; 18 at Fairburn Ings on 7th November, and 14 at Swillington Ings on 6th December.

#### **Wigeon *Anas penelope***

Although numbers were lower than in 1980 the Humber Wildfowl Refuge again held a large population particularly in January, with 4,200 on 11th, 5,100 on 15th; 6,230 on 20th; down to 1,700 on 31st, and in February 2,100 on 15th, and 1,260 on 21st (AC). The autumn numbers reached 2,400 by 25th October; 5,100 on 8th, and 5,500 until 22nd November, falling to about 3,000, and then 2,500 at the years end apart from 5,300 on 11th December.

Monthly peaks in the Lower Derwent from January to April of 3,669, 5,200, 2,770, and 3,000 respectively, and 2,100 in December (YOC).

Maxima at other sites of 100 on the R. Ure at Leyburn in January; 516 at Hornsea Mere on 17th January, and 250 at the year end; 425 at Tophill Low Res. on 13th February; 600 at Bolton-on-Swale during February and November; 500 near Settle on 13th March, and 340 at Blacktoft Sands on 26th November.

Smaller numbers at other waters such as 58 at Fairburn Ings on 30th March; 85 at Leighton Res. on 25th October; 55 at Gouthwaite Res. in November; and in December, 47 at Wintersett Res. on 11th; 40 at Semerwater on 12th; 36 at Ingbarichworth Res., and 30 at Pugney's G.P. on 13th.

Coastal passage moderate, the highest counts being 382 south at Spurn on 18th September, and 402 north at Filey on 7th November.

#### **Gadwall *Anas strepera***

Bred at Tophill Low Res., Mickletown Ings, Newmillerdam, Wintersett Res., Fairburn Ings, and probably in the Lower Derwent valley, young being raised at the first three sites.

From one to seven at seven places in V.C. 61, at one in V.C. 62, at 16 in V.C. 63, and at nine in V.C. 64, with records during every month.

Hornsea Mere had 129 on 14th January, and 201 on 14th November; Tophill Low Res. 38 on 21st February, 69 on 19th October, and 75 on 17th December; Fairburn Ings 14 in the spring; and Mickletown Ings 21 on 23rd October, were the only places with higher numbers.

### **Teal *Anas crecca***

The Lower Derwent had the largest numbers in the early months, with 2,155 on 18th January; 3,682 on 14th February, and 1,000 on 15th March, and 11th April. Eight localities in V.C.s 61, 63 and 64 had peaks of up to 300 in these months, and higher maxima were 400 at Hornsea Mere in January; 395 at Fairburn Ings on 25th January; 600 at Potteric Carr during February, and 530 at Tophill Low Res. on 18th February. On the Humber Estuary, counts of 340 between Goole and Faxfleet on 31st January, and 755 on 15th February; and 405 on 15th March between the River Hull and Paull, were the highest away from the Wildfowl Refuge, which had 670 on 11th January, down to 530 on 24th, and less than 300 by late February.

Heaviest passage south off Spurn occurred from mid August to late October, and totalled 2,542, including 935 on 11th September.

Autumn peaks included 1,100 at Blacktoft Sands on 18th September, which had 700 in August, and 800 in October; 500 at Gouthwaite Res. in September, and 574 in November; 470 at Fairburn Ings on 4th October; and in December 500 at Potteric Carr, and 393 at Wath Ings. In the east, Tophill Low Res. had 800 on 27th September, and 400 on 19th October; but the Lower Derwent maximum was only 180 on 13th September. However the Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 2,640 on 12th September, and then fluctuated during the month with counts of 1,370 on 13th; 2,330 on 19th; 1,100 on 24th, and 1,800 on 27th, declining during October to 1,200 on 4th, down to less than 500.

Bred in V.C. 63 at Potteric Carr, Wath Ings, Tinsley S.F., Hallam Moors, and Howden Res., and possibly at Redmires, Derwent and Wessenden, and in V.C. 64 at Aldfield, Fulford Ings. Gouthwaite Res. (six pairs), and at Fairburn Ings.

A male green-winged Teal, *A. c. Carolinensis* was at Wheldrake Ings from 1st to 4th November (TD, TED, EBB).

### **Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos***

Numbers in the west of the county were dwarfed by those in the east, but included 1,000 in January at Potteric Carr, and 1,250 at Fairburn Ings on 31st; and 1,796 at Eccup Res. on 1st February; and in the autumn 1,200 at Blacktoft Sands in September, and 2,425 at Fairburn Ings on 21st; then 1,215 at Leighton Res. during November, and 1,489 at Eccup Res. on 13th December.

Early maxima in V.C. 61 of 2,507 at Hornsea Mere on 17th January, and 4,000 along the Lower Derwent on 18th January; then 4,436 on 14th February, and late maxima in December of 1,360 at Tophill Low Res. on 11th, and 1,000 at Wheldrake on 28th.

Large numbers at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, with peaks of 8,140 on 24th January; 4,140 on 3rd February; 3,470 on 12th September; 3,170 on 24th October, and 3,890 on 13th December.

### **Pintail *Anas acuta***

Cherry Cob, and Lower Derwent, were the strongholds of this species, with at the former site, 184 on 18th and 200 on 31st January, and 130 on 15th February, and at the latter site, 171 on 14th February, and 58 on 1st March.

Small numbers at about 20 sites well inland, mostly during September, when the only significant southerly passage along the coast occurred with on 11th of 18 past Flamborough, and 33 past Spurn. Moderate numbers westerly over Blacktoft Sands, with 40 on 15th September; 31 on 3rd October and 42 on 9th. 42 at Whitton Sands on 12th September and Fairburn Ings on 17th, and 22 at Redmires during September. 40 at Whitton Sands on 17th October, and 30 on 3rd December, and 71 at Cherry Cob on 6th.

One pair bred on the Lower Derwent (GS).

### **Garganey *Anas querque dula***

Two at Spurn on 20th March, then three at Pugney's G.P. on 24th, and a pair at Potteric Carr on 28th March, which remained to 3rd June. Pairs at Thrybergh Tip from 3rd to 14th April; at Fairburn Ings from 16th April to 8th May; at Wheldrake Ings on 21st and 23rd April, and at Mickletown Ings on 11th May. Singles at 12 other localities. Up to three at Tophill Low Res. from 22nd August to 7th September, and five on 8th. Last at Fairburn Ings on 23rd September.

### **Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Early maxima of 75 at Fairburn Ings during January and 50 at Potteric Carr on 24th; 112 at Hornsea Mere on 13th February; 56 in the Lower Derwent Valley on 8th February, and 109 on 5th April; and 31 at Mickletown Ings on 12th April

Bred at Wath Ings, Potteric Carr, Fairburn Ings (where ten pairs failed due to flooding), Tophill Low (two pairs), and along the Lower Derwent, where an estimated 50 pairs were present (TED).

Autumn maxima of 94 at Swillington Ings on 31st August; during September, 39 at Whitton Sands on 1st, 125 at Fairburn Ings on 18th, and 40 at Denaby Ings on 20th. During November, 85 at Hornsea Mere on 17th, and 60 at Potteric Carr on 27th, and on 6th December 100 and 85 respectively at these two waters. Little coastal movement.

### **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Following the record counts on the Lower Derwent in early 1980, numbers were much lower, with 1,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 11th January, and the counts for the valley on 14th February, and 15th March gave 700 and 1,010 respectively.

Many waters had good numbers both early and late with the following peaks: Fairburn Ings 473 on 18th January; 451 on 28th September, and 851 on 1st November; Pugney's G.P. 210 on 18th January, 904 on 19th November, and 711 on 2nd December; Hornsea Mere 475 on 17th January; Tophill Low Res. 270 on 13th February, and 300 on 11th December; and Swillington Ings 393 on 21st February.

Mickletown Ings, Sprotborough Flash, Potteric Carr, Wharfe Ings, Wintersett Res., and Thrybergh Res. all had maxima of 100 to 150 during the year.

Of 28 pairs breeding at nine sites, 23 pairs reared 63 young.

### **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*

At Tophill Low Res. a male was present from 2nd January, probably continuously until 4th May, and a second was present from 6th to 11th January, on 21st and 27th February, and 13th April (NAB, PD, KR *et al*). Presumably one of these at Hornsea Mere from 24th March to 26th March (AMA), and at Wheldrake Ings from 14th to 23rd April (TB, GS). At the year end one at Hornsea Mere on 16th November (RGH), and one at Tophill Low Res. from 8th November remaining to the year end visiting the River Hull nearby during the hard weather (IF, PWI, KR, JL *et al*).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

### **Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

A male at Fairburn Ings from 14th to 16th June (CW), and an immature male at Dringhouses Pond, York on 29th November (DW).

### **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Bred in V.C. 61 at eight sites; in V.C. 62 probably at two sites, where 20 young were seen; in V.C. 63 at 19 sites; in V.C. 64 at least 59 pairs bred rearing over 200 young, and in V.C. 65 probably bred at two sites.

Highest numbers at Hornsea Mere 350 on 12th April, and 379 on 17th November; at Tophill Low Res. 780 on 19th January; 682 on 13th February, and 766 on 16th November; on the Lower Derwent, 300 on 11th April; at Fairburn Ings, 365 on 18th January, 536 on 23rd August and 432 on 10th December; and at Wintersett Res. 240 on 16th January.

One water in V.C. 62; 13 waters in V.C. 63; several waters in V.C. 64, and one in V.C. 65 had maxima of from 40 to 160 during the year.

### **Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Coastal movement, mainly southerly, noted in January, April and from September, mostly of one to four birds, plus 30 at Spurn on 3rd January; ten at Flamborough on 25th April, and 15 on

22nd October; ten at Spurn on 25th October; 28 at Flamborough on 7th November, and at Filey in December, eight on 22nd, and seven on 24th, and 11 off Barnston on 19th December.

Inland, one to three at 25 localities, mainly in V.C.s 63 and 64, mostly for short stays, in every month. Four inland past Whitton Sands on 8th February, and five at Tophill Low Res. on 19th October.

#### **Eider *Somateria mollissima***

Present at Filey Bay almost throughout the year apart from a period in May. In general a flock of at least 30 in the early months, with up to 42 between 8th and 22nd March; 60 on 9th April, down to 38 by mid month, and 24 on 7th May. A few in early June, building up to 27 on 27th, then only about 14 in July, and fewer in August and September, but 19 on 18th and 19th October, then single figures to the years end. Passing Filey, 71 north on 8th November, and 18 south on 19th November, and ten on 22nd December.

Numbers elsewhere on the coast were low except for 31 at Flamborough on 11th January, and 20 on 8th November, 24 at Withernsea on 18th October, and 17 north at Scalby Mills on 8th December.

At Spurn, passage generally south, usually in single figures, plus 28 on 15th; 23 on 18th, and 16 on 19th October, and 25 on 8th November; and on the Humber 14 on 3rd June, and 11 on 15th October.

Inland, nine north-west over Fairburn Ings on 8th January (CW), and eight down the Humber at Paull on 9th April (BS & SP).

#### **Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis***

Only three records in the early months, of one south at Spurn on 17th, two at Flamborough on 18th January, and two at Filey on 29th March.

Most from 11th October to the year end. Eight singles south at Spurn on 11th October, and one to two there on seven dates to 7th November; one at Withernsea on 12th October, and small numbers at Filey and Flamborough on several dates, with four at Filey on 23rd October, and at Flamborough on 6th December.

Inland, one at Fairburn Ings from 16th to 29th April, and singles at Hornsea Mere on 17th and 18th October, 1st November, and from 19th to 31st December. Two on the River Hull near Tophill on 13th, 22nd and 28th November. Two at Pugney's G.P. on 30th May.

#### **Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra***

Quite numerous all along the coast, and particularly from late June to August, and during November. Good passage regularly at Spurn with 112 on 26th May; 343 on 18th June; 100 on 23rd July; 170 on 1st August, when 80 flew up the Humber; 103 on 23rd August, and 110 on 12th, and 111 on 15th September. Flamborough had 181 on 20th June (when 185 north at Filey); 107 on 22nd, and 122 on 24th July, and 151 on 1st August. Moving north on 8th August, 151 at Flamborough, 149 at Filey, and 80 at Scarborough. The largest numbers were during November, with on 7th, 408 north at Filey, and 225 at Spurn; on 8th, 178 at Flamborough, and 212 at Filey. A flock of 416 in Filey Bay on 26th November, and 115 north there on 24th December. 220 off Barnston on 28th December.

Along the Humber 80 flew east at Cherry Cob on 4th April, and 113 west at Blacktoft Sands from 2nd to 8th August. Other inland records included a single only in V.C. 61; 12 records of one to seven, at six waters in V.C. 63, mainly during June and July; and 11 records of no more than three birds, in V.C. 64.

#### **Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata***

A male flew north at Filey Brigg on 20th January (PRC, PJD). The second record for the County.

*Not accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.*

#### **Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca***

One at Scalby Mills on 1st January, and four at Filey on 17th; three south at Spurn on 8th March; two on 18th April and one on 25th, and two on 29th May, were the only early coastal

records. Three at Filey on 21st July; one at Spurn on 23rd, and four south on 9th August, and one north on 28th.

More frequent from 10th October, when Flamborough had ten, and then 11 the following day, when six flew south at Spurn. Flamborough only had small numbers thereafter, and Spurn had one to three on four days up to 1st November, and six south on 15th November. At Filey six on 13th October; four on 17th, and 11 on 23rd, with ten more records to the year end including seven in the Bay on 23rd November. One in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 22nd December.

One inland at Pugney's G.P. on 1st March.

Addition to the 1979 Report: One on Castle Howard Lake on 13th October.

#### **Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula***

Coastal records were infrequent, and of small numbers apart from a period from mid-October to mid-November. Ten at Filey on 17th and 24th October, and 41 north on 7th November, on which day at least 70 on the sea north of Jackson's Bay (RHA), and 15 at Spurn. 12 at Flamborough on 15th November, and in Filey Bay 12 on 22nd December increased to 20 by 26th.

Although well distributed throughout the County on suitable inland waters, those in the east held the largest numbers particularly in the early months. Maxima at these waters were of 180 at Hornsea Mere on 12th April; 90 on the Lower Derwent on 14th February, and 32 at Wheldrake Ings in April; and up to 35 at Tophill Low Res., with a peak of 80 on 9th April. Other early maxima included 20 at Wintersett Res. on 12th January, and 14 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 24th; 28 at Pugney's G.P., and 31 at Gouthwaite Res. in February; 14 at Mickletown Ings on 7th March; at Fairburn Ings 46 on 8th March increased to 84 on 16th, and 56 still present on 31st. Most had departed by early May, but Tophill Low Res. had three immatures in that month, and two during June and July, and one remained at Ingbirchworth until late September.

For 11 to appear at Nosterfield on 7th September was unusual, and the general return was between 10th and 20th October. In November, 18 at Pugney's G.P. on 15th, 37 at Tophill Low Res. on 9th, and 26 at Gouthwaite Res., 21 at Wintersett on 13th December, and at the month end 21 at Fairburn Ings, and 50 at Hornsea Mere.

#### **Smew *Mergus albellus***

Apart from adult males off Flamborough on 11th January (DGH); at Ingbirchworth Res. up to 28th March, and from 9th to 13th December (CB); and one west at Blacktoft Sands on 30th December, the remainder were *redheads*.

Singles at Bretton Park on 17th, and Nostell on 27th January; at Elsecar Res. on 3rd February; at Fairburn Ings up to 21st April, with a second on 12th March (GRW), and one at Pugney's G.P. to 24th March (PH *et al*).

One at Fairburn Ings from 7th November to 7th December, and one at Wintersett Res. on 29th November, and from 9th to 14th December. Singles during December at Wath Ings from 5th to 7th, and on the R. Dearne on 8th; at Bridlington on 6th (PAD); Castle Howard Lake on 8th (DW); at Thrybergh Res. on 22nd and 24th (SHH), and at Hornsea Mere from 23rd to 31st (IJP).

#### **Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator***

Three pairs at Stocks Res. on 15th May, but no proof of breeding. Inland, 14 records of one or two in the early months, plus three at Fairburn Ings on 11th January, and four each at Whitton Sands on 4th April, and Blacktoft Sands on 10th May. During the autumn nine records, mainly of singles, but three at Swinsty Res. on 12th November, and four at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 26th. Most frequent at Filey and Spurn, of the coastal watchpoints, but generally in low single figures, apart from at Filey nine south on 15th April, 12 north on 24th July, nine north on 19th October, and 14 north, and five south on 7th November; nine at Flamborough on the same day, ten north at Spurn on 13th October, and ten north at Burniston on 23rd August.

#### **Goosander *Mergus merganser***

Pairs bred near Hawes; in Bishopdale; in lower Wensleydale (six); Wharfedale (five), and along rivers in the Settle area. Widely distributed on inland waters up to April, and from

October, but the majority were in V.C. 64. Eccup Res. had maxima of 139 on 25th January; 75 on 1st March; 64 on 5th April, and 82 on 22nd December; on the R. Ure at Givendale 110 in January, and 67 in December, and 80 at Leighton and Roundhill Res's in January. Other maxima away from V.C. 64 were ten at Bretton Park on 3rd February, and eight at Tophill Low Res. on 16th March, and 30th December; 15 at Whitton Sands on 15th February, and 13 at Swillington Ings on 29th November.

#### **Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis***

Single pairs present, at Harewood Park from mid-May to mid-November, at Wheldrake Ings from 5th to 12th April (BGP) and at Potteric Carr and Low Ellers from 18th to 31st May. No proof of breeding. At Mickletown Ings two males from 9th August, and then up to seven from 28th September to 26th November (JM *et al*). Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 1st January (MC *et al*); at Worsbrough Res. from 19th February to 1st March (JDHB *et al*); at Wheldrake Ings on 22nd March (TB, DW); at Ingbirchworth Res. from 2nd to 11th May (CB *et al*); at Swillington Ings on 28th June (JW); at Fairburn Ings on 29th April, 27th to 29th August, 23rd November, and 4th December; and at Pugney's G.P. on 17th and 18th February (PLM).

Addition to the 1979 Report: One at Worsbrough Res. on 27th September (JDHB).

#### **Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus***

Breeding probably occurred at, or was attempted at one site in the County. Three in September at Spurn, all flying south on 13th, 18th and 21st. One at Bishops Wood, Selby on 2nd June (JP).

#### **Black Kite *Milvus migrans***

Singles at Southfield Res. on 3rd May (CW *et al*) and on Thorne Moors on 9th (ML). Both records were not accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

#### **Red Kite *Milvus milvus***

One overhead near Birkenshaw on 22nd March (JL); one east at Crosland Hill, Huddersfield on 23rd April (WD), and one in off the sea at Flamborough on 17th May (PAL).

#### **Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus***

V.C. 61: The majority of records were either of *creamcrowns*, or not specified. 11 (mostly singles) at Spurn during May from 8th to 28th including males on 13th and 15th; and five from 26th August to 1st September. Singles at Ellerton on 19th April (male); Hornsea Mere on 8th May, 13th August (male), 5th September and 1st November; Wheldrake Ings on 10th May, and Lower Derwent on 12th (male); Skipwith Common on 3rd August; Tophill Low on 15th and 24th August, and 21st (male) and 28th September, at Filey on 18th October, and at Whitton Sands on ten dates from 12th June to 12th September.

V.C. 63: A pair arrived at Blacktoft Sands on 28th May, and although attempting nesting, activity ceased by mid-June. Other singles at Blacktoft from 27th April to 15th September, totalled 38 bird days (AG). *Creamcrowns* during May at Wath Ings on 8th; Potteric Carr on 9th, 10th and 18th; Hatfield Moors on 15th and 17th; and Old Denaby Ings on 18th. A male at Wath Ings on 1st September and a *creamcrown* on 26th October.

V.C. 64: One over Swillington Ings on 8th May, and single *creamcrowns* at Fairburn Ings on 17th May, 13th August and 6th September; and at Colsterdale on 16th August, and over Ilkley Moor on 28th.

#### **Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus***

V.C. 61: Most numerous along the Upper Humber and River Ouse, with seven between Goole and Faxfleet on 15th February and 15th March. Mainly singles east of Hull, with the majority of those at Spurn being after 23rd September. Maximum at Cowden of four on 18th January. Singles near York on five days mainly during February and March; at Filey on 10th May, 29th October and at the year end, with a second on 24th December. One at Hornsea Mere on 30th December. A third of the records were of males.

V.C. 62: Males at Sawdon on 8th February, and Cayton on 8th November, and *ringtails* at

Sawdon on 3rd February; at Bransdale on 15th February (three); at Commandale on 3rd April, and at Bransdale on 29th October. A pair at one locality throughout the year, and a female at another on several dates.

V.C. 63: Of the various roosts, that in the south west had up to seven in the early months, and three at the year end; Hatfield Moors had up to six early, and two at the year end, and Blacktoft Sands had seven from 6th February to 17th March, and six on 31st December as the maxima. Scattered records in other moorland localities, and at Mickletown Ings singles on 21st February and 24th March.

V.C. 64: Up to four in Upper Nidderdale, and two in Upper Wharfedale, during the winter months. A pair present in the breeding season at one locality, and males on three other moors, but no proof of breeding.

V.C. 65: Only three sightings of *ringtails* reported.

#### **Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus***

A male at Spurn on 16th May, and a *ringtail* on 16th June. Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 7th June, and 18th August. One at another locality on 1st August.

Individuals probably of this species at Blacktoft Sands on 16th May, and at Pugney's G.P. on 13th June.

#### **Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis***

V.C. 61: A big increase in records from the York area, with a total of 28 bird days from June onwards. Singles at Flamborough on 14th and 15th February, 22nd September, and 28th November, and at Easington on 18th October.

V.C. 63: Singles at Wintersett Res. on 18th April; Wath Ings on 3rd and 13th September, and Blacktoft Sands on 21st October.

V.C. 64: Singles in Wharfedale on 5th January; at Duck Street on 12th April; Long Preston on 29th; Knaresborough Ringing Station on 25th May; Norton Tower on 26th August, and 3rd September; Fairburn Ings on 13th September and 8th November, and Bishop Thornton in November.

Pairs present at various localities during the breeding season.

#### **Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus***

From the numbers of sightings reported shows a steady increase in all vice-counties. An increase in breeding records in the York and Doncaster areas. Up to seven at a Starling roost near Gouthwaite Res. in October and November. Some southerly passage at Spurn in the spring, and autumn.

#### **Buzzard *Buteo buteo***

V.C. 61: Singles at Hornsea Mere on five days from 7th January to 31st March; at Flamborough on 4th and 11th January; at York on 3rd August; at Spurn on 3rd October, and North Duffield on 6th December. Singles at Filey on 25th March and 31st August, and Wheldrake on 16th May, reported as buzzard species.

V.C. 63: Singles at Breeks, Rotherham on 25th January; at Limb Valley on 26th August; over Blacktoft Sands on 6th September, and at Sprotbrough from 12th to 24th November.

V.C. 64: Five spring records, including three in mid-April between Boston Spa and Harewood probably of the same individual. A pair at one site in June. Thirty autumn sightings, including 14 from Gouthwaite Res., of which three were on 3rd October; four were near Ripley in September and October.

V.C. 65: No breeding records, but two birds at three sites, and singles at four other sites.

#### **Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus***

Singles at Bransdale on 25th January (KR *et al*) and 15th February (JED *et al*); between Goole and Blacktoft Sands on 30th August (GS), and east over the latter locality on 7th October; and singles south over Kilnsea on 18th October, and Spurn on 12th November.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

The immature in the Gouthwaite area remained until 26th January (MGHG).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

One west over Swillington Ings on 12th April (SP, JW). Singles at Langold on 16th and 18th May; at Sand Hutton pool on 18th and 19th May (RS, TB), and east over Blacktoft Sands on 28th May. One at Coxwold in early June (PH); one north over Whitton Sands on 12th June (TE) and singles south at Spurn on 13th June, 15th August and 20th September, where one came in off the sea on 18th and flew north-west. One at Thorpe Marsh on 9th August (JW, KS). One west north west over Shepley on 16th October (FJW), and one at Swinsty Res. on 14th November (FAW).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

A total of 42 pairs reported breeding in V.C. 63, but there would be many more. 14 between Lofthouse and Angram (Nidderdale) on 28th July, and over 25 in Swaledale on 16th August. Noteworthy southerly passage at Spurn with 274 between 12th September and late October, including 32 on 10th October, 60 on 11th, and 30 on 13th. 20 south at Flamborough on 11th October.

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*

A female at Allerton Bywater on 19th and 20th May (PW). A second-year male south at Spurn on 1st June (BRS, RPC, RS).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Recorded in many localities throughout the County outside the breeding season, usually only one or two birds, but four on Hatfield Moor on 1st February, and three at Blacktoft Sands on 13th October, and at Filey on 26th December.

Four at a locality in V.C. 62 in July, and singles at two sites in V.C. 65, may all have been in breeding areas. Nine pairs reared young in V.C. 64.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

V.C. 61: Singles south at Spurn on 28th May, and 9th September. One at Naburn S.F. on 3rd June (JG, GS), and one near Menthorpe on 10th July (AH). During August singles at Tophill Low Res. on 14th (BF), at Flamborough on 15th, 17th, 28th, and 31st (AMA *et al*), and at Broomfleet on 20th (DBC). One at Aughton Ings on 3rd September (TED, EBB).

V.C. 63: Singles at Bretton on 12th, and Kirkburton on 26th May (GBS, BW). Two at Agden on 3rd July (IF). Two present at one site in late July. Singles at Tinsley S.F. on 9th August; north over Blacktoft Sands on 29th, and at Sprotbrough Flash from 5th to 9th September (CGJ, DF, AR). Singles at Potteric Carr on 28th July (AM), and at Scholes near Rotherham on 13th September (JPS).

V.C. 64: Fairburn Ings had singles on 1st July (TG, PS), and 28th (CB); on 31st August (JG), and on 4th to 6th, and 29th September (SCM *et al*); and elsewhere singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 26th July (SW, TS); at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 1st August (RE *et al*); at Plompton Hall on 19th August (AO'N); at Bank Newton, Gargrave on 27th September (PMW), and one over Swillington Ings on 7th September (SP, JW).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

V.C. 61: One at Whitton Sands from 7th to 14th February. Singles at Filey on 19th February, and Flamborough on 22nd March. Singles at Filey on 27th September, and 24th December, and at Flamborough on 25th October, 28th and 30th November and on 6th and 27th December.

V.C. 63: Two in the Ewden Valley on 11th January; a pair near Rishworth on 26th May, and singles at Blacktoft Sands on 1st September and 3rd October, and on Hatfield Moors on 22nd November.

V.C. 64: Singles in the Bishop Monkton area on 10th and 25th January; at Swillington Ings on 1st March, and at Knaresborough, and Pannal on 20th and 22nd. Singles at Fairburn Ings on

26th July, and on Ilkley Moor on 23rd August. At Swillington Ings on 19th September, an immature was joined by one coming in from the east, both departed to the south-west. Singles at Chelker Res. on 1st October; at Nosterfield on 22nd November, and Copgrove on 29th December. One at Shadwell, Adel and Arthington from early November to mid-December.

#### **Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus***

There were indications that the heavy snow in late April had a bad effect on breeding in V.C. 64. The moderate number of 40 on Denton Moor on 24th January, was the largest flock reported.

#### **Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix***

Three females at Widdale on 17th April. A male at Tan Hill on 11th May. Two leks at Greenfield, Langstrothdale had a total of 19 males, and a female on 15th May (MVB). A few reports from Nidderdale were all of solitary females. Two males at Arkengarthdale on 5th September.

#### **Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa***

The largest coveys in the early months were of 19 at Wath Ings on 28th January, and 25 on Hatfield Moors on 21st February. Up to 16 at Harthill on 6th and 7th May. Coveys of 12 to 16 during the autumn at five places in V.C. 61, one in V.C. 63, and four in V.C. 64, plus other maxima of 22 at Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 18th October, and 37 at Skipwith on 27th; 44 on Hatfield Moors on 6th November, and 31 near Thrybergh Res. on 11th, and 21 at Whitley on 15th December, and 37 at Kexby on 23rd. Nine at Bolton-on-Swale on 19th November.

#### **Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix***

Apart from 44 at Wath Ings on 17th October, and 25 at Catterton on 8th November, all the higher counts were during the cold spell in December. These were 27 at Wheldrake on 13th; 69 at Thrybergh on 19th; 106 on Hatfield Moors on 22nd; 30 near Scarborough (V.C. 61) on 24th; 37 at North Duffield Carrs on 25th; 26 at Fairburn Ings on 26th; 27 at Garforth on 27th, and 58 at Knostrop on 24th.

#### **Quail *Coturnix coturnix***

Quite a good year in the east of the County. One calling on Anchor Plain near York on 1st May, and two in a ploughed field at the Knavesmire on 7th. The next were in June with singles at Knotford Nook, and Pugney's G.P. on 14th, at Micklebring on 16th, and at Wheldrake on 18th, and also on 21st July; and one was at North Duffield on 18th July. Six heard calling at Flamborough on 11th July, and one on 13th. One at Hatfield Moors on 29th and 31st July, and 12th August.

Records increased during August and early September. Up to five calling near Holme-on-Spalding Moor during August. Regularly in the Bielby area, with birds calling on 2nd to 5th and 8th August, and birds flushed during barley harvesting on 12th and 25th August, and four times on 2nd September. One killed by a harvester at Hagg Bridge (V.C. 61) in August. Singles at Bempton on 13th, and Blacktoft Sands on 15th August. Two at Wheldrake on 26th August. At least three flushed whilst harvesting near Newton (V.C. 61) on 25th August, and two on 14th and 16th September. Singles at Pocklington Airfield on 5th September, at Ravenfield on 9th, and near Burnby on 21st.

#### **Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus***

Large numbers at Blacktoft Sands where the breeding population had a good season. Over 50 on Hatfield Moors on 25th January, and 100 on 24th December.

#### **Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus***

Widely distributed in ones and twos at many lowland sites, with at least seven sites in V.C. 61, two in V.C. 62; 17 in V.C. 63, and many in V.C. 64, both early and late in the year. Some records in May, but no proof of breeding, although probable at Potteric Carr and Blacktoft Sands.

Up to four at Hornsea Mere, and similar numbers at Tophill Low Res., which had a maximum

of eight on 13th December. Six at Fulford Ings in the early months, and four at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge; whilst at the year end five each at Fairburn Ings, and Swillington Ings. Blacktoft Sands had 20 on 22nd January; 30 in October, and 40 in November.

#### **Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana*

One flushed at North Landing, Flamborough on 4th April (PAL). An immature at Blacktoft Sands from 8th to 10th August, and an adult from 23rd August to 12th September (AG *et al.*). One at Tophill Low Res. seen on five dates from 29th August to 10th September (PD, PWI *et al.*), and one on 19th October (TR). One at Sproatbrough Flash on 9th September, where it remained for two months (KP). At Blaxton Common one was found dead in late October (ML).

#### **Corncrake** *Crex crex*

Single birds calling at Wheldrake on 17th May (TB), and at Tilmire in mid-June (TC).

#### **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Little indication of any change in status. Several places had about 50, and Fairburn Ings had 110 on 19th January, and Mickletown Ings 66 on 26th November.

#### **Coot** *Fulica atra*

In the early months the highest counts were in the east with 1,350 at Hornsea Mere on 24th February, and 950 along the Lower Derwent on 14th February. Mickletown Ings had 419 on 20th January, and Fairburn Ings had 1,110 on 1st August. Most other maxima were during the autumn and early winter with 480 at Swillington Ings on 2nd September; 670 at Tophill Low Res. on 14th September; 738 at Mickletown Ings on 26th November, and during December 570 at Malham Tarn on 7th; 432 at Pugney's G.P. on 12th; 640 at the Farnham and Hay-a-Park G.P.s on 13th, and over 1,000 at Hornsea Mere on 18th. Potteric Carr, Denaby Ings, Wintersett Res., and Harthill Res. all had maxima of over 200.

#### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

At least six pairs bred between Wheldrake and Bubwith along the Derwent, and many pairs again bred in the Dales. The return inland occurred during March, with five on the Lower Derwent, and 24 at Masham on 8th; 22 at Nosterfield on 14th, and 17 at Bolton-on-Swale on 15th. Most had departed by mid-August.

700 in Cornelian Bay on 15th January. The majority of the birds along the Humber Estuary were at Spurn with 3,000 on 3rd January; 1,600 on 16th October, and 1,500 on 25th November. Westerly passage inland at Whitton Sands with 597 between 15th March and 29th August (110 on 15th August), and 684 over Blacktoft Sands (75 on 11th August). Single figures passed, or remained briefly at, many inland localities in all months.

The usual peaks of southerly passage along the coast during early August, with on 7th over 200 at Scarborough in one hour, 157 at Filey and 203 at Flamborough; and on the 8th, 1,148 at Filey, 493 at Flamborough, and 530 in off the sea at Spurn; and then on 15th, 140 at Filey, 245 at Flamborough, and 659 at Spurn.

#### **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Three north over the Humber at Spurn on 17th May, and two on the edge of the saltmarsh at Welwick on the same day (SML). One at Tophill Low Res. from 26th May to 1st June (TMC, PMC, KR). Two at Whitton Sands on 22nd June (TE), and at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd and 23rd (AG).

#### **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

First one at Pugney's G.P. on 21st March, then two at Wath Ings on 22nd, and one at Staveley on 27th. Breeding pairs in all vice-counties. In V.C. 61 and the York area, at least ten pairs, of which five were known to have been successful. One pair in V.C. 62 reared three young. Several pairs in V.C. 63; 17 pairs in V.C. 64, where success rates were low and two pairs in V.C. 65.

25 at Bleachcroft Farm Pond, Cudworth on 21st July. 13 at Pugney's G.P. on 27th June, and 17 at Wath Ings on 12th July. Last ones at Fairburn Ings on 28th September, and at Whitton Sands on 30th, and finally one at Pugney's G.P. between 3rd and 17th October.

### **Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula***

A few along the coast in the early months, with maxima on 24th January of 47 at Jackson's Bay, and 45 at Bridlington.

Pairs bred at Welton Water, Saltend, Tynham Hall G.P., Blaxton G.P., Tudworth Sand Quarry, Pugney's G.P., Chelker Res., Nosterfield G.P., Gouthwaite Res. (two pairs), and at a disused quarry in Wensleydale. The recent move to inland breeding sites has been maintained. Probably breeding on the coast near Barmston.

Maximum numbers inland of 75 at Blacktoft Sands on 21st May; 28 at North Duffield Carrs on 23rd, and 35 at Nosterfield G.P. on 6th August. 580 at Cherry Cob on 17th May, and 221 roosting in fields near Whitton Sands on 18th May, 206 at Spurn on 26th August.

61 passed Flamborough after snowfalls on 27th December.

A flock on the Humber at Spurn from 12th May to 3rd June, peaked at 37 on 25th May; the majority showing the characters of the Arctic race *C. h. tundrae*, as did 109 roosting at Easington on 25th May, and others on passage at Blacktoft Sands during the same period.

### **Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus***

A female at North Duffield Carrs on 22nd May (TED), and a male on the Humber at Spurn on 24th.

### **Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii***

One at Spurn from 29th July to 6th August, mainly on the Humber off Kilnsea at low tide, and just north of Chalk Bank at high tide (EC, JR, BRS *et al.*).

The first record for the County.

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

### **Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus***

Blacktoft Sands had two on 19th and 20th April, five on 4th and 6th, and seven on 5th May, and 11 on 8th (AG *et al.*).

Eight at Harthill on 5th May, 12 on 6th and 16 on 7th; and two from 8th to 12th (DHur). Three at Ravenscar on 6th May (FAWW, FN, TE), and four on Burley Moor on 7th (WG). One south at Spurn on 8th May, and one north on 24th. Singles at Flamborough on 17th (PAL), and Filey Brigg on 31st May (DJW). One at a locality in the North Yorkshire Moors on 15th June.

### **Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria***

V.C. 61: Good numbers in the area although reports were not received from some known wintering areas. Up to 3,000 at Atwick in early January, and 2,000 along the lower Derwent on 25th, and at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge 2,800 on 8th February. Autumn maxima of 800 at Brandesburton on 14th November, 2,000 at North Duffield, and 3,700 at Cherry Cob on 6th December. Generally above 1,000 from August, to the year end at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, with peaks of 4,240 on 13th September, and 5,300 on 21st November with fluctuating numbers through the autumn.

V.C. 63: 1,200 at Wath Ings in January and February, and at Todwick on 26th March, and 800 at South Crosland on 17th. 500 to 800 at six other localities, and at the year end, 2,000 at Pugney's G.P. on 15th November, and at Wath Ings on 1st December.

V.C. 64: 750 at Pool Meadows on 11th January, and 700 at Killinghall on 15th February. 820 at Thorner Lane End on 14th November, and 593 at Colton, Leeds, and 500 at Gargrave on 15th. 1,000 at Cawood on 25th October, and 2,000 on 15th and 21st November.

V.C. 65: 800 at Ellerton on Swale during April.

Birds of the Northern race *P. a. albifrons* amongst the spring flocks in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64, with respective maxima at Whitley Common, and Ripon of about 400 in late April.

### **Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola***

Present at Spurn on most days apart from the period 10th June to 26th July, with a maximum of 92 on 26th August. Low single figures at coastal localities from Burniston southwards, the highest maximum being 11 at Filey on 19th September. The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had birds from mid-May to November, with maxima of 38 on 15th August, and 40 on 3rd October.

Elsewhere inland, 21 singles at 11 sites in V.C.s 61, 63 and 64 in the months of February, May and August to November. Three at Newington Ings on 10th March; at Pugney's G.P. three on 7th May, five on 23rd September, and two on 4th October; at Redmires Res. seven on 13th September, and flying west over Blacktoft Sands 17 on 14th September, and nine on 25th, and on 11th October.

#### **Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus***

V.C. 61: 4,000 at Wheldrake on 24th January, and 3,000 between there and Bubwith on 15th February, and 3,000 along the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 27th January, were the early maxima. 2,500 at Brandesburton on 14th November, and 1,100 at Mappleton and Flamborough on the same day; 1,000 at Gate Helmsley on 18th, and 2,000 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge at the month end. In December, 1,850 at Tophill Low Res. on 5th, and 1,800 at Stone Creek, and 2,000 at North Duffield on 6th. Birds moved west continuously over York on 8th and 9th December, and few were left along the Derwent, and Humber, during the cold weather after the 10th. 675 south at Spurn on 31st December.

V.C. 63: Maxima at Wath Ings of 1,500 on 10th February, and 3,500 on 21st November, and at Pugney's G.P. of 1,200 on 8th February, and 1,800 on 15th November. 2,300 at Treeton on 15th November, 1,500 at Kiveton on 6th December, and 2,000 at Carlton Marsh on 7th.

V.C. 64: 3,000 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd January, and 2,000 at Thorner Lane End, Leeds on 31st January, with other flocks of over 1,000 in the early months.

A disastrous breeding season due to the heavy snow of late April leading to desertions of eggs, and young.

2,100 at West Tanfield on 14th November, and 2,000 at Cawood on 15th and 21st, and 3,255 at Nosterfield on 22nd.

#### **Knot *Calidris canutus***

Only small numbers along the coast apart from at Spurn, with 134 on 11th September, the peak day of southerly passage. The Humber Estuary counts gave 15,500 on 31st January, between Paul and Spurn, and 17,950 on 15th February, all east of the R. Hull; and 7,250 on 15th March. 2,000 at Spurn on 14th November.

Nine west at Blacktoft Sands on 19th July, and three on 16th August; and nine at Faxfleet on 29th August, also on passage. Ten at Whitton Sands on 7th and nine at the Refuge on 8th November. Elsewhere inland one at Harrogate Stray on 10th, and seven in the Ribble Valley on 11th March, and one at Fairburn Ings on 11th April, and one or two at five sites between 18th July and 7th October, on 11 different dates, mainly in V.C. 63.

#### **Sanderling *Calidris alba***

Jackson's Bay, Scarborough had 88 on 24th January (RHA), and 50 on 24th March, and on the beach immediately south of Bridlington, 134 on 24th January, and 226 on 21st February (SML), and 277 on 14th March (AJL). Lower numbers at the year end of up to 25 at Scarborough; 157 at Bridlington on 28th November, and 36 at Filey on 31st December. Regularly at Spurn (apart from 11th June to 12th July) with maxima of 300 on 4th May; 116 on 26th August, and 250 on 16th October. Some southerly passage here, with most in August including 79 on 5th. 30 at Faxfleet on 3rd January, and 16 at Sunk Island on 17th May. Present at Blacktoft Sands almost daily from 20th May (eighth on 21st) to 2nd June.

Away from the coast and estuary, one to two at six sites on 13 dates, with half the records in May. Three at Swillington Ings on 18th May, and seven at Nosterfield on 6th August.

#### **Little Stint *Calidris minuta***

Rather low numbers in the spring, with singles at Blacktoft Sands on 10th and 12th May, and at Faxfleet on 19th, and three at Wath Ings from 23rd to 25th May, and two at Faxfleet on 17th June.

Early return migrants were one at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 22nd July, and two at Blacktoft Sands on 25th. A distinct passage from 29th July to 11th October. During this period 13 inland, and two coastal sites, had from one to three, but during mid-September there were four at

Gouthwaite Res., and up to six at Fairburn Ings. Birds regularly at Spurn during this period; including 13 on the Humber on 19th September, and 11 on 21st and 22nd; and seven on the 'scrape' on 16th; and also at Faxfleet with a peak of 12 on 13th. Blacktoft Sands, after small numbers in August had a quite exceptional build-up from 12th September with 14, up to 42 the next day, then 65 on 14th, 85 on 15th, and 86 on 19th September. Three still there on 23rd October, and one on 7th and 10th November (AG). These numbers represent the highest in the County since 1960.

#### **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

One at Tophill Low Res. from 15th to 17th May (PWI, KR). Three at Wath Ings from 23rd to 25th May. One at Aughton Ings on 31st May was seen later at North Duffield Carrs (BC *et al*, and TED *et al*). Singles at Flamborough Head on 4th July (PAL), and Bolehill Flash on 17th August (RP). One at Blacktoft Sands on 13th September; two on 14th, and one from 15th to 19th (AG).

#### **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*

One at Tophill Low Res. from 27th July to 1st August (PD, IF, PWI, KR, TR *et al*). Fifth County record.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

#### **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii*

One adult at Blacktoft Sands from 15th to 31st August (AG, DP, DHur). Second record for the County.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

#### **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

One at Blacktoft Sands from 29th July to 1st August (AG *et al*), and one at Tophill Low Res. on 13th and 14th September (JB, JL, TR).

#### **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

A few in May with singles at Spurn on 16th, 17th, 20th, and 21st, and Treeton on 5th and 8th, and at Blacktoft Sands on 31st, and two on 1st and 2nd June, and one on 3rd. One at Potteric Carr on 20th July. Faxfleet had up to five from 26th July to 12th September, and 18 on 3rd October. Blacktoft Sands had an early build-up to 13 on 1st August, then fewer until a count of 32 on 13th September, followed by 65 on 15th and 72 on 16th then decreasing to 16 on 26th with some remaining into October with the last on 21st. Tophill Low Res. had birds on 19 days from 4th September to 18th October, including three on 16th September. At Spurn, after one on 30th July, and three on 13th and 14th August, regularly during September with six on 9th, and the last one on 20th October. Two at Wath Ings on 3rd and seven on 5th September.

Singles off the coast, at Flamborough in late August, and at Filey on six September days, plus two on 13th.

#### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Present at Filey Brigg up to 19th May, and from 11th July, and records at all other sites were within these dates. Coastal maxima during January of 150 at Whitby on 8th; 120 at Jackson's Bay on 24th; 105 at Cornelian Bay on 31st; 63 at Flamborough on 18th, and 74 at Bridlington on 1st. Filey had 100 in January and March, and 184 on 17th April.

Autumn maxima of 42 at Flamborough on 14th, and 62 at Bridlington on 28th November, and 84 at Filey in December.

Inland, one at Faxfleet on 17th August (TE), and one at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 31st October and 1st November (RE, PTT).

#### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Humber Estuary counts of 9,250 on 31st January, and 12,700 on 15th February; and east of Paull 8,800 on 15th March. Along the coast 700 at Jackson's Bay on 24th, and 500 at Cornelian Bay on 25th January, and 600 at Filey in January and December. 204 flew south at Filey on 19th

October, as did 520 at Spurn, which had its maximum on 23rd November of 2,300 on the Humber. Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 1,900 on 29th November, and 750 were at Blacktoft Sands during September and October. 200 flew south at Tophill Low Res. on 27th January, and 366 were in the Bubwith/Aughton area on 1st March. 53 at Nosterfield on 20th July.

Breeding occurred on the Southern Pennines.

#### **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*

A juvenile at Blacktoft Sands from 31st August to 8th September, and 27th September to 6th October (AG, GS).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

#### **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

The status of this species in the County is changing. There were signs of increased passage in 1976, which became established in 1979, and record numbers appeared in 1980. Small numbers wintered in 1977, and are now probably regular at some localities in V.C. 61.

Up to five along the Lower Derwent in the early months, and 52 at Stone Creek on 14th February; two at Potteric Carr on 2nd February, and one at Doncaster Carr on 1st March. Regularly at Tophill Low Res. from 3rd March to 8th June, with 18 on 23rd April, when there were five at Faxfleet.

The Lower Derwent Ings had up to 18 in the spring months.

During May, eight at Blacktoft Ings on 9th, and nine at Swillington Ings on 15th. Light spring passage elsewhere inland.

Tophill Low Res. had a good autumn passage, commencing with eight on 8th July, up to 34 on 12th August, then after a decline increased again to 62 on 19th September, down to 14 on 28th, although 11 on 18th November, and 15 on 7th December.

Blacktoft Sands had 51 on 21st July; 150 on 18th August; 130 during September; 135 on 11th October, down to 35 by 1st November, and three on 10th December.

Ten sites in V.C. 63 had up to four, and several in V.C. 64 had up to seven, in the autumn. Higher counts included 11 at Nosterfield on 8th, and at Fairburn Ings on 11th August, and 13 at Swillington Ings on 10th. Maxima at Spurn of 12 on 1st August, and at Whitton Sands 25 on 29th. Seven at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st September, and 12 at Nosterfield on 18th. 12 at Derwent Ings on 18th October, and nine at Wath Ings on 25th.

46 at Stone Creek, and two at Cherry Cob on 6th December.

#### **Jack Snipe** *Lymnocryptes minimus*

From one to three at 14 places up to April, plus four at Barmston on 25th January; five at Whiston on 15th February; four at Wheldrake Ings on 5th March; and five at Ulley Res. on 7th, and Wath Ings on 29th; and four at Tophill Low Res. during April. Two at Wheldrake Ings on 26th April, and one at Potteric Carr from 3rd to 5th May.

The first of autumn were three at Mickletown Ings on 1st September, and one at Shirebrook on 9th, with the main arrival from early October. One to three at 18 places, with four at Flamborough from 4th to 13th October, and seven at Mickletown Ings on 24th October.

#### **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Hornsea Mere had a peak of 110 on 17th February, and the Lower Derwent had a similar number on 25th building up to 230 on 1st March, of which 200 were at Ellerton, then declining. Other March maxima of 150 at Wath Ings on 8th; 83 at Fairburn Ings on 14th, and 120 at Fulford Ings on 29th.

Autumn maxima of 50 to 73 on the Lower Derwent, at Old Denaby Ings, Ingbirchworth Res., Ringstone Edge Res., and Flamborough. Higher numbers of 120 at Gouthwaite Res. on 4th September; 110 at Wath Ings on 7th; 120 at Potteric Carr on 26th; 105 at Blacktoft Sands on 16th October, and 100 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 24th.

#### **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

A juvenile at Fairburn Ings from 7th to 16th October (SCM, CW *et al*).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

### **Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola***

Bred at Skipwith Common, Dunnington Common, Hatfield Moors (eight pairs), Margery Wood, and probably in many of the other 30 areas at which roding occurred.

Average numbers arrived along the coast from mid-October into November, including on 24th October 17 at Flamborough and six at Spurn; and on 7th November 20 and four, and on 15th 12 and two respectively, at these places during which period Filey had up to three. Very considerable numbers arrived in late December, particularly on the 18th and 19th when up to 150 were along the hedges south and west of Atwick (WFC); 46 at Flamborough, 40 at Filey and nine at Spurn on 19th, when up to 100 were on the Hornsea Mere reserve. A further influx took place with 30 at Filey on 26th, and over 80 near Atwick at the months end. 47 shot at Buttercrambe during hard weather on 12th December. A much smaller influx inland in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 during late November.

### **Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa***

V.C. 61: Singles at Cherry Cobb on 15th March, and at Ellerton Ings on 20th. The Lower Derwent had numbers on many dates from the first two at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd April, to the last two on 23rd May. 16 at North Duffield on 16th April, down to four on 17th, then 11 to 20th, and no more than six in early May. Three at Welwick on 3rd May, and Whitton Sands on 5th, and singles at Cherry Cobb on 17th; Flamborough on 20th, and Spurn on 26th. One south at Hornsea Mere on 6th July; singles at Tophill Low Res. on 29th July, and 24th to 27th August; and singles at Spurn on 14th August, and 11th September, plus five on 5th September. Whitton Sands had one on 19th June, and 2nd July, five on 25th, one on 30th, and two on 31st July, and one on 4th October.

Singles a Stone Creek on 22nd November, and at Cherry Cob on that date, and 6th December (SML).

V.C. 63: Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 20th, and Broomhill Flash on 26th March. 12 at Blacktoft Sands on 25th April, and one on 12th May. One at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 7th July and over Pugney's G.P. on 20th. Three at Wath Ings on 16th July, and one on 8th August. Daily at Blacktoft Sands from 2nd July, including five on 30th, regularly up to four during August; with five again on 12th and 13th September; four during the last week of September, and singles on 1st, 2nd and 14th October. Tudworth Sand Quarry had two on 16th and 17th August; and singles were at Wintersett on 24th, and Potteric Carr on 1st September.

V.C. 64: 11 at Fairburn Ings on 25th April. One at Aldfield Pond on 3rd June, and two at Gouthwaite Res. on 16th July. Singles at Swillington Ings on 10th August, and at Fairburn Ings from 11th to 15th August.

V.C. 65: Two at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 9th May.

### **Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica***

An adult present at Blacktoft Sands from 10th to 20th September, and again from 24th September to 3rd October (KA, AG *et al*). The first record for the County, and also for Britain.

Awaiting acceptance by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

### **Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica***

The stronghold of this species along the Humber is the Stone Creek to Cherry Cob area, and held 120 on 31st January; 350 on 15th February; and 235 on 15th March, and 81 were still at Cherry Cob on 17th May, which had an autumn maximum of 270 on 22nd November. Birds further up river at Whitton Sands between April and November, with 50 on 3rd October. Westerly passage here, and at Blacktoft Sands, of 21 on 12th April; 24 on 14th July; 39 on 29th August, and 28 on 1st September.

Very few inland records mostly of one or two during April, and from July to October, at only six waters.

At Fairburn Ings 46 flew east on 7th May; and 25 to 30 godwits flying over on 9th September, were probably this species. Other higher numbers inland were all flying west in July with six over Swillington on 19th; and on 20th four over Wintersett Res., and three over Pugney's G.P., where one was seen on 29th December.

Coastal passage was very light, with 35 at Filey on 9th September, being the highest count.

### **Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus***

An early one over Cherry Cobb on 15th March, followed by one over York on 29th, were the first of a light spring passage. Inland, one to two at 23 localities, up to 30th May. Double figures in early May of 16 at Withernsea on 4th; ten at Sunk Island on 10th, and 17 north at Spurn on 12th.

Autumn passage inland was also light, with from one to four at 40 sites between 10th July and 3rd October. Exceptions were 18 over Wykeham Forest on 30th July, and 15 at Whitton Sands on 2nd August.

Coastal passage was more marked with on 8th August, 219 south at Filey, and 63 at Flamborough, on which day 36 came in off the sea at Spurn; and on 23rd August 55 at Filey. Seven at Flamborough on 15th October, and two at Spurn on 21st.

### **Curlew *Numenius arquata***

The Humber Estuary is the main wintering area, and had 1,300 at Stone Creek on 14th February, and 850 at Cherry Cob on 15th March. Small numbers winter along the Lower Derwent, and up to 27 were at Gouthwaite Res. in January; but in the north of the County during February 70 at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st; 500 at Ellerton-on-Swale on 10th, and 100 at Leyburn on 24th.

Widespread records of returning breeders during March from 7th to 26th. The most significant being 40 at Staveley on 7th; 41 at Wheldrake on 8th; 80 west over Knotford Nook on 9th; 21 to 34 at Ingbirchworth, Digley and Yateholm from 12th to 26th; 53 at Bishop Monkton on 15th, and on the same day 200 in the Ribble Valley at Wigglesworth.

Continues to spread to new breeding sites in the York area, and colonization of lowland sites south of Huddersfield was maintained for a fourth year.

Movements and flocks of ten to 60, at many places particularly during August, with 171 west at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd August, and 130 at Malham Tarn on 9th September, being exceptional.

Autumn maximum of 1,360 at Stone Creek, and Cherry Cob on 22nd November, and 42 at Chelker Res. on the same day.

### **Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus***

Recorded in every month, with one at Cherry Cob on 31st January, and 14th and 15th February. A light spring passage commencing on 19th March, with one at Fairburn Ings (four on 5th April), and only one or two at five inland sites, up to late May.

A scattering of records in June and July, with more during August and early September, with one to three in at least 12 localities. Five at Tophill Low Res. on 10th August, and at Tudworth Sand Quarry during mid-August; four west over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th, and at Broomhill Flash on 13th; and more than four regularly at Blacktoft Sands with peaks of 12 on 27th August, and seven on 2nd October. Whitton Sands had five on 13th September, and 15 flew inland here on 15th November. Singles in December at Cherry Cob on 6th, at Wath Ings and Fairburn Ings on 7th, and at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd, 6th and 19th.

### **Redshank *Tringa Totanus***

Apart from 150 at Jackson's Bay on 24th January, and 109 at Flamborough on 10th February, coastal numbers were no more than 100, and passage was light. The Humber Estuary counts showed most to be east of Hull, and 1,030 on 15th March was the highest count. 1,350 on fields at high tide at Kilnsea on 14th August. The monthly maxima at Spurn topped 400 in April, August to October, and December, with 686 on 23rd September.

Many inland waters held birds throughout the year, with fewer in the winters, and typically Blacktoft Sands maxima of 115 occurred in September. 34 at Tophill Low Res. on 16th January, 50 at Chelker Res. on 5th April, and at Whitton Sands on 1st May.

Bred in the Lower Derwent Valley as usual; in wetlands and moorlands in the west, and at least 10 pairs in the Doncaster area.

### **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

None in the early months, the first being at Fairburn Ings on 13th March. Spring passage was light in the west; four at Pugney's G.P. on 22nd April, otherwise only one or two; but a few more in the east, including three at Tophill Low Res., and five in the Lower Derwent during early May.

One at Seamer G.P. in July, and four at Bolton-on-Swale on 17th, amongst a steady increase of sightings in the month, and 12 at Blacktoft Sands on 31st. Widespread during August and September, with five to eight at seven localities; and nine regularly at Blacktoft during August; at Pugney's G.P. on 9th, and at Gouthwaite Res. on 29th. 20 at Spurn on 9th August, and 11 on 10th, and ten on 12th; 15 at Fairburn Ings on 12th; 13 at Nosterfield G.P. on 25th, and on 11th September 12 in the Faxfleet area.

Late singles at Mickletown Ings on 24th October, at Pugney's G.P. on 31st and Fairburn Ings on 8th November.

### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Singles in the winter at five places in V.C. 61; one in V.C. 62; 12 in V.C. 63, nine in V.C. 64, and one in V.C. 65. Three at Wath Ings from 1st to 13th December.

Passage was normal with small numbers in spring, and much higher numbers in autumn. Many localities had up to four between mid-July and mid-September. Seven were at Tophill Low Res. in late June; 13 in mid-July, and nine in mid-September. Knostrop S.F. had 19 on 9th August; Blacktoft Sands ten on 26th August, and at Wath Ings 21 on 24th August; 18 on 8th September, and six on 12th October.

### **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

V.C. 61: Singles at Wheldrake Ings on 11th May and 18th July. Two to four at Tophill Low Res. from 25th July to 15th August, and one there on 28th. One at Spurn on 25th July; three in off the sea on 7th August, then one on 8th, two on 9th, and one heard on 16th. One at Flamborough on 23rd August.

V.C. 63: The first at Pugney's G.P. on 23rd April. Singles at Blacktoft Sands on 21st May and 28th July, then three on 8th, and one on 12th August. One at Bolehill Flash on 10th and 11th August. At Wath Ings five on 23rd August, one of which remained to 30th. One at Sprotbrough Flash on 2nd September.

V.C. 64: Singles at Swillington Ings on 2nd and 6th May. In autumn singles recorded at six places between 18th July, and 27th September.

### **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucus*

The first at Ercup Res. on 31st March, followed by singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 7th April; Acomb on 8th, and Wintersett Res. on 9th. Widely spread from 11th to 23rd April.

56 at Gouthwaite Res. on 5th July; ten at Wintersett Res. on 4th, and 18 at Lindley Res. on 20th. At Faxfleet ten on 21st July, and 26th August. 17 at Thrybergh Res. on 7th August; 11 at Fairburn Ings on 16th, and 13 at Knostrop S.F. on 15th.

Last at Sprotbrough Flash on 7th October, and at Hay-a-Park on 10th October.

### **Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularia*

An adult at Blacktoft Sands on 27th August (GPC, AG, KR).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

The third record for the County.

### **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Jackson's Bay had 100 on 24th January; there were 90 at Cornelian Bay on 31st, and Filey had 40 during that month. The highest numbers, both early and late, at any near coastal locality, were on the Humber at Spurn, with maxima of 110 on 30th March; 160 on 1st and 29th April; 130 on 31st July; 261 on 13th August; 425 on 14th September, and 109 on 16th November. Filey had 42 in August, and 50 for much of the late autumn, with an isolated peak of 153 on 22nd November. Only 19 at Scarborough on 24th December.

Inland during May and early June, from one to three at eight waters including Pugney's G.P.

where nine flew west on 7th May. Low single figures along the Upper Humber apart from eight flying inland near Faxfleet on 2nd August, and six there on 8th.

A moderate autumn passage inland occurring at seven waters between 29th July and 23rd September, generally singles, apart from Blacktoft Sands, which also had birds outside these dates, with four on 10th July; three west on 25th; seven on 7th August; up to four on 1st September, and one on 1st October. Two at Tinsley S.F. on 31st December.

#### **Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius***

One at Jackson's Bay on 2nd January (MDW, DP), and at Cornelian Bay on 3rd (RGS, RHA), and at Filey Brigg on 4th (IF). One at Wheldrake Ings on 15th March (SH, TB). One flew south at Flamborough on 4th September (PAL). Singles at Filey Brigg on 1st November, and from 27th December to 31st (AJE, HJW, PJD, JAP, FJT). One at Hornsea Mere on 2nd and 9th December (JP).

Further inland singles on R. Calder near Horbury S.F. on 2nd October (NPS), and at Blacktoft Sands on 31st (AG).

#### **Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus***

The coastal records were from Filey, Flamborough and Spurn only. Singles at Spurn on 18th, and at Flamborough on 27th and 28th June, and 11th July. More frequent at Flamborough later in July, with five on 19th; two on 25th and one on 26th. Four south, and one north at Filey (PJD, MJG, HJW), and one at Flamborough on 8th August; then two at Flamborough on 15th, and four on 16th, when one was at Filey. One at Spurn on 9th August, and during the period 22nd August to 12th September, totals of six at Spurn, and four at Flamborough, mostly singles. Four at Flamborough on 18th September, and 26th; singles on 21st and 23rd, and two on 27th, 29th and 30th September; then five on 10th October, and singles on 25th October, and 7th November (AMA, DGH, PAL, DIMW *et al.*). One at Filey on 2nd October. Singles at Spurn on 2nd, 4th, 14th, and 28th October, plus two on 13th, and the last on 6th November.

Three flew west inland at Blacktoft Sands on 27th July (AG).

#### **Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus***

A Skua off Filey Brigg on 10th January was probably of this species. Filey had the first with one on 7th March, and then two on 25th April. Two east at Spurn on 18th April, and one south on 21st. Singles at Flamborough on 4th, and Mappleton on 5th May, and at Spurn on 17th and 25th June, but also 12 north, and one south on 18th June.

Main passage from 23rd July to 24th September, and through much of October was only average, at Filey and Flamborough. A marked increase in southerly movement on 15th and 16th August, with on these days 148 and 112 at Filey; 140 and 130 at Flamborough, and 140 and 224 at Spurn. 460 south at Spurn on 20th August, then 121 past Flamborough on 22nd, 132 on 30th, and 185 on 20th September. Filey had 197 on 6th September, and 123 on 2nd October; and Spurn, 46 south on 22nd October, where the last was one on 16th November. Maximum at Scarborough, 17 south on 8th August.

Inland singles at Thrybergh Res. on 25th April, and east over Fairburn Ings on 26th; at Blacktoft Sands on 4th May, and 30th August, and four west there on 26th September.

Correction to the 1980 report: line nine should read 'and 471 at Spurn'.

#### **Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus***

Singles at Flamborough on 25th July (PAL, IS), and Filey on 8th August (PJD *et al.*). Juveniles at Flamborough on 16th and 21st August; on 4th September, with an adult; and on 13th and 14th September (PAL, AMA, DIMW). An adult south at Filey on 27th August (MJG); one south at Spurn on 9th September, and two south at Easington on 20th September (DW). Singles at Flamborough, and Spurn on 26th September.

Addition to the 1978 Report: One on 1st May at Flamborough (PAL).

#### **Great Skua *Stercorarius skua***

Singles at Flamborough on 4th February, and 28th March; at Filey on 11th April (and three on 25th); at Spurn on 16th and 27th April; and at Flamborough, two on 19th April, one on 2nd May, three on 3rd, and four on 4th.

Two north at Spurn on 18th June, and reported regularly at Flamborough from 20th June to mid-November, and from Filey and Spurn, from mid-July into October.

Amongst the higher counts in a moderate year were 13 north at Scarborough on 24th and 28 at Flamborough on 25th July; ten at Spurn on 31st; 23 at Filey on 15th August, and 22 at Flamborough on 23rd; and on 26th September, 12 at Filey and 15 at Spurn, and at Bridlington, 54 north and 15 south (SML). On 2nd October, 42 south at Filey, where the last was one on 8th December.

Inland, one at Wheldrake Ings on 26th April, and two west over Blacktoft Sands on 26th September, were also seen from Whitton Sands.

#### **Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus***

An adult bird which was 'resident' at Bridlington was noted on many days throughout the year by many observers, and may also account for sightings of single adults at Flamborough and Scalby Mills. These were singles at Flamborough on 18th January (JH *et al*); at Scalby Mills from 3rd to 5th April (FAWW, MDW); and at Flamborough on 24th August (PAL). In addition at Flamborough, two adults on 18th April (DGH), and a sub-adult on 23rd August (SCM). Further south, a first summer off Kilnsea Cliff on 13th August; an adult on the Humber at Spurn on 16th October, and one between Easington and Kilnsea on 8th November (MC, KR).

Inland, along the Upper Humber, a sub-adult at Whitton Sands on 2nd August (TE, STH), and one at Blacktoft Sands flying west on 22nd August.

In V.C. 63 many sightings from 2nd January to 25th February, probably involving two individuals as follows: at Winterset Res. a first winter from 2nd January on 16 dates to 20th February, and an adult on six dates from 23rd January to 16th February (PS, PH *et al*); at Blackmoorfoot Res. an adult on 10th, 17th and 21st January (MLD *et al*); at Wath Ings, an adult on 26th January and 18th February (JMT, TF); at Pugney's G.P., a first winter on 1st February (PH, DP), and at Greasborough tip from 19th to 25th February (NWA). During the autumn singles at Wath Ings on 28th and 29th October (NWA); at Carlton Marsh on 13th November (JJ), at Winterset Res. on 12th and 20th (PS *et al*), and at Langsett Res. on 22nd (NWA).

#### **Little Gull *Larus minutus***

Coastal records for every month except June, and inland for every month from April onwards.

Singles in January at Filey on 1st, 11th and 19th, and in February at Scarborough on 28th. At Scalby Mills one on 21st March, and four on 22nd (when one was at Bridlington), and one to two regularly from 3rd to 16th April. At several other coastal sites in May and July, usually in low single figures. Numbers in August included seven at Scarborough on 8th; 68 at Hornsea Mere on 15th, and 21 at Flamborough on 21st. During September, 44 at Flamborough on 3rd; 57 on 13th and 37 on 20th; 35 at Spurn on 28th; 32 at Withernsea on 29th, and 31 on 1st October. 20 on the sea off Hornsea on 3rd October. Spurn had high numbers in early October over the Humber, including 30 on 2nd, and 77 on 5th; and passage offshore of 53 south on 4th; then from 27th October to 1st November: 41, 57 and 57 north, 44 south, 45 north, and on the last date 26 north, 46 south and 12 south-west. On 1st November 95 passed Easington going south-west, and many of these would not be seen at Spurn. One at Filey on 28th December.

Inland, one to two at five places in April; two in May, plus four at Fairburn Ings on 7th, and 60 on the Humber at Broomfleet on 31st (DBC). Singles in June on four days at Blacktoft Sands, plus five on 22nd; and on six days in July, including four on 20th. Occurred at nine waters in August and September, with five at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th August, and four at Wheldrake Ings on 29th September.

Singles at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 2nd October, and at Dringhouses Pond from 11th to 14th; at Potteric Carr on 8th November; and at Winterset Res. on 10th November, and 1st and 6th December.

#### **Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini***

Flamborough Head again had most of the records with an adult on 4th January (JH, DGH); an adult and a first year on 25th April (DIMW); single adults on 13th (GPC), and 23rd August (PAL); two adults on 20th September (DGH, PAL *et al*), and a first winter, and another on 22nd October (DIMW). An adult offshore flying south at Spurn on 18th September, and a first winter at Withernsea on 30th September (SML).

Additions to the 1979 Report: See page 57.

### **Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus***

Winter roosts at Wintersett Res. on 2nd January; at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th February, and at Fairburn Ings on 21st, all had 6,000, but more were at Wheldrake Ings, with 10,000 on 2nd January, and Eccup Res. with 13,000 on 1st February. 1,000 to just over 3,000 at five other roosts, and similar numbers at five feeding areas, including three rubbish tips.

Bred at Locker Tarn, Whitaside Tarn, Masham G.P. (250 pairs), Nosterfield G.P. (83 pairs), Knostrop S.F. (75 pairs), Potteric Carr (30 pairs), Ringstone Edge Res. (one pair), Black Moss, Fairburn Ings (92 pairs), Skipwith Common (500 pairs), North Duffield (150 pairs), and Wheldrake Ings (30 pairs). Poor success rate at the last two sites, and at Fairburn Ings.

Maxima in the second half of the year included 3,100 on the Humber at Spurn on 27th July; 25,000 at Blacktoft Sands on 26th September; 4,800 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 30th October; 6,000 at Pugney's G.P. on 1st November; 7,000 at Fairburn Ings on 3rd December, and 5,000 at Wintersett Res. on 6th, and 15,000 at Eccup Res. on 13th December.

The highest coastal numbers were at Scarborough with 8,000 in North Bay on 13th January, and on 15th, 10,000 from Cornelian Bay to Jackson's Bay.

### **Common Gull *Larus canus***

1,500 at North Bay, Scarborough, on 13th January, was the highest coastal count, with no more than 600 anywhere else, apart from 1,500 on 27th October, and 950 on 14th November, on the Humber at Spurn.

Eccup Res. was by far the largest inland roost, with 6,000 on 1st January, and 25th October, and 6,750 on 13th December, which decreased to 2,700 by 25th as the surface froze. 1,000 roosted at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 29th January, and 3,000 left the Fulford Ings/Knavesmire area eastwards at dusk on 13th March, but it is not known where they roosted.

A pair bred at Fountains Fell Tarn.

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***

Numbers at two of the principal roosts for this species, Eccup Res. and Blackmoorfoot Res., have declined considerably in the last five years. Peaks at the former of 325 on 1st January; 450 on 9th September, and 550 on 13th December, and at the latter of 214 on 11th September.

Over 200 at Nosterfield G.P., Knostrop S.F., and Swillington Ings in August, and at Thorp Arch in October, and 800 at Fairburn Ings on 18th August, and 400 at Masham on 14th November.

Dark backed individuals probably of the races *L.f. fuscus*, and *L.f. intermedius*, were widely reported from March to November, mainly at Spurn; including 14 south on 25th April, and 20 south on 7th October; but also from Flamborough, Bridlington, Barmston, Hornsea, Out Newton, Withernsea, Welwick, Cherry Cob, Eccup Res., Blackmoorfoot Res., and Ardsley Res.

Other high counts of the British race in late September, with 850 at Blacktoft Sands on 26th, and 470 at Pugney's G.P. on 28th, and 700 at Skelbrooke tip on 13th October.

### **Herring Gull *Larus argentatus***

Rather low maxima at the roosts in V.C.s 63 and 64. In January, 775 at Eccup Res. on 1st; 500 at Swillington Ings on 18th; 400 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 18th, and 500 at Wintersett Res. on 20th. 400 at Fairburn Ings on 21st February, and 450 on 27th April. Six tips in V.C. 63 had substantial numbers feeding including 650 at Greasborough on 28th January. 1,500 roosted at Pugney's G.P. on 11th December.

Coastal numbers quite high, with 8,500 passing Flamborough on 5th April, and 1,500 at Filey during the latter part of the year.

About 1,000 pairs bred along the cliffs at Bempton.

Birds probably of the type *L.a. omisus* at Flamborough with singles on several dates, and three on 22nd February, and 5th April, and four on 25th October, and 29th November. Yellow-legged adults at Blacktoft Sands and Pugney's G.P. on 31st January. A *leucistic* individual at Filey on 21st November, and an albinistic one at Bridlington on 7th July.

### Iceland Gull *Larus glaucopterus*

A good year for this species.

V.C. 61: A second winter at Bridlington to at least 17th March (JED *et al*), and a first winter on 17th March (D. Hur). At Flamborough, a third winter on 17th January, 27th February (PAL), and 7th May (JH); second winter on 2nd February (PAL), and first winter on 15th March (IS, JMP). A first winter at Spurn on 11th January, and second winter on 23rd February. First winter at Filey on 14th March (HJW *et al*).

Inland, a first winter at Tophill Low Res. on 24th January; a second winter at Whitton Sands from 17th to 21st April (TE, STH), and at Ferriby Tip on 29th April (CCR).

V.C. 62: With one exception all records were from Scalby Mills with a third winter on 12th January (FAWW, RHA), a second winter from 30th January to 1st February, and another on 4th February (RHA), and a first winter on 14th March (GWF). A first winter at Scarborough harbour on 7th February (RHA).

V.C. 63: Singles at Wintersett Res. on 26th January (GJS), and 28th February (PS *et al*); at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 20th February (MLD); at Pugney's G.P. on 3rd March (RPC), and east over Blacktoft Sands on 5th April. One at Broomhead Res. on 12th November (RT).

V.C. 64: Eccup Res. had a second winter on 11th, and 13th January; a third winter on 28th; then two third winter and a first winter on 7th February, which were present variously to 12th (RCH, DO, TD). A second winter at Knotford Nook from 25th January to 14th March (KM, PJC, TK), and a third winter flew east over Fairburn Ings on 7th March (IC). Eccup Res. had a third winter from 8th to 13th November, and a second winter from 2nd to 7th December (RCH, DO, SPS).

### Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

V.C. 61: As in 1980 there were many records, too numerous to list in full detail, and the majority were in the early months with at least one remaining through the summer. Filey had immatures on ten days in January, and adults on three; a total of three birds on 14th March, and an immature remaining to 17th May. Flamborough had birds on 32 days including four on 11th January, 1st and 15th February; six on 15th March, and four on 4th, and five on 5th May. Spurn had five different individuals up to 20th May, usually on one day only, an immature on 14th and 17th June, and eight bird days in the last five months. Bridlington had one, sometimes two from January to March.

A first summer was in Bridlington harbour on ten dates, from 23rd May to 28th July (CJS), and at Filey from 14th August to 2nd September. The lame individual, which first appeared in 1979, was at Wheldrake up to 22nd February, and was also seen at Askham Bog and Dringhouses. Four individuals at Whitton Sands between 29th March and 27th April. Singles on various dates along the coast at Withernsea, Grimston, Hornsea, Barmston, Fraisthorpe, and also inland at Hornsea Mere and Cherry Cob.

V.C. 62: A first winter at Whitby on 6th February (CB). At least five different birds in the Scarborough area up to 17th March, including four in the harbour on 7th February (RHA, FAWW). An adult at Scalby Mills from 18th October to 30th December (MDW *et al*), and first winters at Scalby Mills, and Cornelian Bay on 28th November (D.Hur).

V.C. 63: In January, singles at Blacktoft Sands on 4th; Broomhead Res. on 11th; Greasborough tip from 2nd to 30th; Blackmoorfoot Res. on 15th, and at Wintersett Res. on 25th and 27th, and another from 27th to 29th. During February singles at Pugney's G.P. on 7th and 20th, and at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 24th to 27th. In March singles at Greasborough tip on 5th, 9th and 11th; over Wath Ings on 8th, and at Wintersett Res. on 3rd and 5th. Singles at Pugney's G.P. on 12th December, and at Blacktoft Sands on 31st.

V.C. 64: First winter birds at Askham Bog tip on 4th January, and Swinsty Res. on 20th. At Fairburn Ings an adult from 5th to 7th; and on 11th January, and single first winters on six days, from 17th January to 25th March. Eccup Res. had first winter birds on 24th and 25th (two) January; a third winter on 29th, and an adult on 6th December.

### Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Eight roosts and feeding sites had maxima of 100 to 400, mostly late in the year. Roosts of 500 at Wintersett Res. on 2nd January; 400 at Pugney's G.P. on 17th February, and 11th December;

at Fairburn Ings maxima of 600 on 21st February, and 18th October, and over 700 on the unusually late date of 27th April. 1,000 flew west over Swillington Ings on 11th January. 500 at Hornsea Mere on 18th December.

600 on the Humber Estuary between Ferriby and Hessle on 31st January. 1,020 south at Spurn on 11th October, and 595 on 3rd November. Highest counts at Flamborough were during rough weather conditions, and included 900 on 15th March, and 21st October, and 850 on 7th October.

#### **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

No change in status reported from the huge colonies of Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs. A small colony on window ledges in Bridlington harbour, is flourishing.

Large numbers passed Flamborough, and although many would be local birds, the total of counts on 15th, 22nd and 29th March, and 4th April was 61,000. At Spurn northerly passage on 17th and 18th June, totalled 10,600. 2,500 south at Filey Brigg in half an hour, on 4th October.

Inland records at 23 places, were mainly of singles, for every month except July, with more than half during March, and early April. 89 at Gouthwaite Res. on 10th January; six at Wheldrake Ings on 1st April, eight at Fairburn Ings on 27th March, and at Blacktoft Sands 14 on 25th April, and 25 on 18th May.

#### **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

An adult at Flamborough on 29th September (PAL).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

Filey Brigg had the earliest, with four on 21st March, then one on 27th, and seven on 28th, when six were at Flamborough, and singles were at Withernsea on 24th, and Scalby Mills on 31st. Spring passage maximum of 516 south at Filey on 25th April in atrocious weather conditions. Autumn passage, in late July of 1,277 north at Spurn on 24th, and on 25th, 760 at Flamborough, and 518 at Filey. 600 north at Scarborough in one hour on 7th August, and 549 at Filey on 8th, when 500 were at rest in Jackson's Bay. Over 600 south at Spurn in the evenings of 18th and 21st August, and 5th September. Maximum at Flamborough of 1,210 on 1st August, and at Filey of 666 north on 22nd. At Withernsea, 415 north in an hour on 12th September, and 364 on 20th.

Inland, only six records away from the Humber of ones and twos in April, May and August, plus seven west at Whitton Sands on 20th June, and a few singles there and at Blacktoft Sands.

Last at Withernsea on 18th, Filey on 21st, and Flamborough on 25th October.

#### **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

One at Filey Brigg on 12th June (AB). One east past Whitton Sands on 28th June (TE). Two adults at rest in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 8th August (RHA). Two at Filey Brigg on 25th August (JRG, MJG), and one on 26th September (AB, HJW). Two at Flamborough on 4th September, and singles on 3rd, 17th and 29th (AG, PAL, IS).

#### **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

The first positively identified were amongst the 112 that flew east at Spurn on 17th April, and two at Eccup Res. on 18th, although *commics* had been recorded earlier at Filey Brigg, with seven on 26th March and one on 28th.

Inland, occurred at a great many places from late April to early October, in parties of up to nine, with larger parties of 14 at Elsecar Res. on 25th April, and Blacktoft Sands on 30th; at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd May, and Pugney's G.P. on 12th. 50 at Hornsea Mere on 29th July. Flying west at Blacktoft Sands during August were, 29 on 8th, and 12 on 24th; and 33 at Whitton Sands on 29th. Last inland, one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th October.

A pair present at the Bolton-on-Swale breeding site.

18 at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 18th August.

Maximum passage at Flamborough of 257 on 15th, and 270 on 21st August. Other significant records of birds not specifically identified were of, 185 west then north north-west along the

Humber at Broomfleet, on 3rd May, 20 at Malham Tarn on 31st July, and 161 north at Withernsea in 30 minutes on 16th September. At Spurn, 310 on 21st, and 257 on 23rd August, and 297 on 11th September.

Last one at Filey Brigg on 20th October.

#### **Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea***

One at Fairburn Ings on 1st April may have been an Arctic. On 17th April singles at Spurn, Fairburn Ings, Whitton Sands, and Tophill Low Res. (four). April 25th was an obvious day of movement inland, with 35 at Blacktoft Sands; 29 at Fairburn Ings; 12 at Swillington Ings; eight at Thrybergh; 11 at Wintersett Res., and 13 at Pugney's G.P. 18 at Fairburn Ings on 3rd May, when 53 were at Wheldrake Ings, after which up to five at a few places, and the last inland, one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 20th September.

Coastal passage of those identified was light, although of 385 flying south at Filey Brigg on 23rd April, up to 300 were thought to be this species.

Last at Spurn on 26th September.

#### **Little Tern *Sterna albifrons***

First one north at Spurn on 16th April, and two on 18th, then two at Filey Brigg on 25th. Most were recorded at Spurn, being almost daily from 4th May to 17th August, with 12 on 14th May; 38 on 17th, and 42 on 18th June; and six south on 4th September, and the last one on 10th. Four at Sunk Island on 17th May. Three west at Blacktoft Sands on 8th June; two at Whitton Sands on 13th, and singles at Wheldrake Ings on 26th June, and at Tophill Low Res. on 9th August.

Other coastal records of three on 1st, and five on 19th July at Withernsea; one at Scarborough on 23rd July; at Filey singles on 19th May, 30th July, then five on 4th August, three on 10th, and two on 29th. One at Flamborough on 12th September.

Inland in V.C. 64, two at Swillington Ings on 30th May, and one at Ben Rhydding on 25th July; and in V.C. 63 two at Wath Ings on 31st May, and one on 4th June, and one at Thrybergh Res. on 7th August. Three west over Blacktoft Sands on 8th June, and at Pugney's G.P. two on 14th, and one on 26th June, and one on 9th August.

#### **Black Tern *Chlidonias niger***

Apart from one south at Filey Brigg on 27th April, the spring passage was almost entirely confined to the period from 3rd to 17th May.

On 3rd May, 50 flew west over Blacktoft Sands; on 7th, two were at Wheldrake Ings; on 8th, 15 at Swillington Ings, ten at Fairburn Ings, and four at Potteric Carr; and also from 8th to 16th May, one to three at ten waters usually for only one day, plus five at Stocks Res., and three at Bolton-on-Swale on 15th; four at Fairburn Ings on 16th, and four at Tophill Low Res. on 17th. On the coast, 15 east at Spurn on 15th May.

Three at Mickletown Ings on 26th May; 12 at Broomfleet, one at Whitton Sands, and two at Tophill Low Res. on 31st May. Three records in V.C. 64 during June.

Autumn records inland, during August of one to five, mainly from 5th to 19th, at eight waters, with six at Pugney's G.P. on 15th. From 2nd to 22nd September small numbers again at eight places, with 12 at Pugney's G.P. on 5th, and on 12th, seven at Wintersett Res.; eight at Blacktoft Sands, and nine at Whitton Sands. One in the Ribble Valley, and four at Pugney's G.P. on 2nd October, and one that had been at Hornsea Mere from 12th September, was last seen on 17th October.

At Spurn between 9th August and 10th September a total of 26 south, 15 north, and one over the Humber. On 11th September, 81 flew south, including a party of 37, then later seven south on 17th September, and one on 7th October. Few other coastal records, with no more than two at Flamborough, and four at Filey (19th August), on any one day.

#### **White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus***

An immature at Hornsea Mere on 8th August (IF, KR).

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*

An immature at Flamborough Head on 9th August (PAL, DGH, JH).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

**Guillemot *Uria aalge***

Reported to have had a good breeding season at Bempton Cliffs.

Total counts of auk species included at Flamborough, 23,000 on 29th March, and 12,000 on 4th April; and at Filey Brigg, 1,000 an hour on many days in late May and June, would be from breeding cliffs, and a very high peak there of 24,700 in an hour, during the evening of 9th July.

An oiling incident in the vicinity of Filey during the last week of December, affected in excess of 200 birds.

One at Stone Creek on 14th February, and one on the R. Trent at Blacktoft Sands on 28th September.

**Razorbill *Alca torda***

No change in status reported from the breeding sites at Flamborough Head, Bempton Cliffs, and north of Filey Brigg.

**Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle***

One flew south into Filey Bay on 11th July (SC, PJD, HJW), and one was off Flamborough on 22nd October (DIMW).

**Little Auk *Alle alle***

Three on the sea at Scalby Mills on 24th January (MDW), when one flew south at Filey Brigg. At the latter site, an oiled bird on 31st January, and 1st February, and singles on 17th, and 26th February. The corpse of a lightly-oiled individual was found at Withernsea on 22nd February.

Flamborough had three on 25th April, and on 27th, and singles on 1st and 4th May. One south at Spurn on 17th June.

One over the point at Spurn on 6th November, left to the east. Three at Flamborough on 7th November, and four on 25th, and one at Filey on 27th and 28th December.

**Puffin *Fratercula arctica***

No apparent change in status at Bempton Cliffs, but bred in increased numbers along the cliffs towards Flamborough Head (PAL).

**Rock Dove *Columba livia***

Large numbers with the characteristics of pure stock are on the Flamborough cliffs, and cliffs north of Filey.

Over 800 flew south over Bridlington harbour, in under two hours, on 28th February. 500 at Filey on 7th February. 2,500 at Buckton on 17th October (SML). 17 in off the sea at Flamborough on 25th December.

**Stock Dove *Columba oenas***

Well distributed as a breeding species particularly in V.C. 63.

250 in the Wath Ings area on 3rd January; 54 at Bank Island, Wheldrake on 4th, and 94 on Hatfield Moors on 9th. 62 at Thorp Arch on 14th March.

84 at Sunk Island on 22nd October; and over 250 again in the Wath and Broomhill areas on 27th; and 60 at Bishop Monkton on 31st. 85 at Thrybergh Res. on 4th November, and over 100 at Broadstones, Ingbarwick on 4th December. Five in off the sea at Flamborough on 25th December.

**Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus***

During the early months, 3,200 at Swillington Ings on 11th January, 2,000 at Nostell in January; 5,000 on Hatfield Moors on 10th February; 1,500 at Renishaw Park on 7th, and at Thorne on 21st; and over 1,000 at three other localities.

At the year end peaks of 4,000 at Loscar Common, Harthill on 10th November; 1,500 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 28th; and 3,300 on Hatfield Moors on 22nd December. Over 1,000 at Hornsea, and Healaugh, and 2,000 flew south-west over Swillington, on 14th November.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

A roost at Headingley held over 250 regularly, and at times over 350, during January and February, and over 225 during November. Most maxima in the autumn months apart from three localities in V.C. 63, which had about 60 early in the year. Six localities had up to 100 as maxima, mostly November and December, and over 100 at Harthill on 5th November, and Honley on 29th December. 300 at Staveley on 24th October.

Some southerly passage at Spurn, with a total of 141 on 16 days, in late May and early June.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

Early arrival of singles at Potteric Carr on 12th April; at Stillingfleet and Parlington Park on 16th; at Blacktoft Sands and Boston Spa on 17th; with, after a few other singles, the main arrival from 6th to 30th May. On 12th May, 12 on Hatfield Moors, and on 16th, ten at Sandbeck Park and 14 at Wintersett Res. 83 south at Spurn on 24th May. 543 west at Blacktoft Sands between 8th May and 23rd June, including 55 on 24th May, and 50 on 3rd June.

Regular southerly passage at Wath Ings, from 15th August to 15th September, totalled 380. Last singles on 14th October at Wheldrake Ings, and Wath Ings.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

One very early at Riccall on 4th April, then other singles at Potteric Carr, and Stamford Bridge on 12th; at Hornsea on 14th, and at Fairburn Ings, Boston Spa, Barden, Woolley, and Thrybergh before the month end. Main influx 1st to 10th May.

Few reported during September; singles at Naburn on 13th; Spurn on 16th, and at Breck Farm on 19th, being the last.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus*

One found at Shaw Wood, Armthorpe on 14th November, died at a local R.S.P.C.A. centre, and is now in Doncaster Museum (per ML). The third record for the County.

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

V.C. 61: An increase in winter records in the York area (some of these in V.C. 62 and V.C. 64). Probably most numerous in the County amongst the villages of Holderness, and along the coast in the Hornsea area. Bred at two sites near York.

V.C. 63: Bred at three places, and probably at a fourth; and reported from nine others. Some evidence of a decline in recent years around Huddersfield.

V.C. 64: Bred at one site near York.

V.C. 65: Absent from the Richmond area (AR).

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

At least 18 pairs bred in the York area, and possibly ten more did so, but the species was only reported from eight other localities in V.C. 61, and four in V.C. 62. Bred in at least ten localities in V.C. 63, and probably did so at ten more. Widespread, and relatively common in V.C. 64.

An unusual occurrence of three in the Spurn area, on 14th October.

One flew into an Ilkley house in cold weather on 26th December.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Widespread, and common, as a breeding bird throughout most of the County.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

V.C. 61: No reports of breeding. One at Leconfield on 3rd September. Singles at Flamborough on 9th August, 18th October, and on five dates from 7th to 29th November, plus four on 11th November; and at Spurn on 20th April, 20th August, and during October, three on 14th; two on 18th, and one on 22nd, and finally one on 14th November. Two at Filey on 7th November.

V.C. 62: One on Yearsley Moor on 14th May, and four records from the Wykeham area, including one food carrying on 6th August.

V.C. 63: The Owston Wood roost had 11 on 25th January; and the same number roosted at Haw Park on 7th, and 21st February, but only five at the year end. Pairs bred at Hatfield Moor (two), Melton Wood, Potteric Carr, at two sites near Huddersfield, and two near Sheffield.

V.C. 64: Singles at York University on 23rd January, and Bishop Monkton on 11th February.

#### **Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus***

V.C. 61: Well distributed, outside the breeding season, along the coast from Filey to Spurn; along the R. Humber and R. Ouse to Goole, and in the valleys of the R. Hull and R. Derwent. Usually one or two, but up to four occasionally; with six at Cowden Range on 24th January, and at Flamborough on 11th October, and Spurn on 13th and 14th October. One at Cottam on 12th September.

V.C. 62: One food carrying at Blakey Topping on 10th July. One in off the sea at Scarborough Castle, on 18th October. One at Scalby Mills on 7th November, and three at Cayton Carrs on 8th.

V.C. 63: One or two at eight lowland sites in the winter and autumn periods, with maxima of four each at Thorpe Marsh, and Blacktoft Sands, which was the only reported breeding site. Singles in three upland areas in April and August. Three near Ingbarrow on 28th November.

V.C. 64: Bred at one site, and present at six others. Singles widespread in the winter months, with up to three at Fairburn Ings, and Bishop Monkton.

V.C. 65: Present at nine localities, breeding at three of them.

#### **Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus***

V.C. 61: Four pairs bred at Skipwith Common, and several at Allerthorpe Common, where there were five singing males. One found dead between Bielby and Allerthorpe on 16th August.

V.C. 63: A significant decrease on Hatfield Moors to 25 singing males. First there on 2nd May, and last on 3rd September. One pair in the Sheffield area on 29th June.

V.C. 64: A singing male at Colsterdale on 27th July, and 10th August.

V.C. 65: One on Sournire Moor on 31st May.

#### **Swift *Apus apus***

One at Spurn on 12th April, and singles at York on 22nd, and Pool-in-Wharfedale on 27th, were early as were others at five places in early May, before a general influx from 5th to 11th May.

On 9th May, 500 at Fairburn Ings. 140 at Ossett, and 700 west at Swillington Ings; on 10th 1,500 at Lundwood, and 150 at Thrybergh; on 11th, 500 at Hay-a-Park G.P.; and on 18th, 650 at Wath Ings.

Many concentrations of up to 500 over inland waters in June, but the highest were 3,000 at Hornsea on 11th, and 1,800 at Fairburn Ings on 28th. Coastal passage maxima in July, with 12,000 south at Flamborough on 11th, and 6,000 at Spurn on 6th and 11th, and 4,000 on 16th. 1,000 west at Swillington Ings on 9th, and 26th July, and 500 west at Blacktoft Ings on 23rd.

October records, mainly singles, at Great Ayton, and Scarborough on 2nd; North Duffield on 3rd; Swillington Ings on 4th; Filey on 7th; Spurn on 10th, and Flamborough on 11th.

#### **Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***

The recovery noted in 1980 continued in all parts of the County.

V.C. 61: Bred at four sites, and present at eleven others.

V.C. 62: Noted at a few sites, particularly near York.

V.C. 63: Breeding proved at six sites. Reported from a further 50 sites, appearing regularly at some of these.

V.C. 64: Breeding confirmed at five sites, and may well have occurred at six others. Reported from a further 30 places.

V.C. 65: Reports from four localities.

With the total number of records double those of 1980, a generally healthy situation exists in the County.

**Bee-eater *Merops apiaster***

Singles at Spurn on 14th May (BRS), and flying south along the R. Derwent near Thorganby on 23rd May (GS). Three flew north-west over Parlington Park on 10th June (PS).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

One circling Flamborough Head for 10 minutes on 22nd May, in fog, was calling regularly, but was not seen (PAL).

**Hoopoe *Upupa epops***

One at Bessingby and Carnaby from 19th to 29th March (CJS *et al*), would be the one seen there at the end of 1980. Singles near Hunmanby on 13th May; at West Vale on 28th June, and Womersley on 4th July.

**Wryneck *Jynx torquilla***

One at Flamborough on 28th August, four on 30th, one on 31st, when there were also singles at Filey Brigg, and Hornsea Mere. Singles again at Flamborough on 2nd September; at Filey Brigg on 7th and 10th September, and Flamborough on 11th and 12th October.

Present at Spurn from 29th August to 8th September, with daily figures of three, seven and four at the end of August, five on 1st September, down to three by 4th, and one by 7th. Two along Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 5th September, and one on 10th.

One at Copmanthorpe on 1st September.

**Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis***

From the records received the only real indication of status change comes from the Doncaster area, where a further increase is reported, with from one to five at 16 sites.

Good populations reported from the York area, particularly on the wooded scarps of the Howardian Hills and Wolds.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major***

Reported as a common and widespread breeding species. Records west of Hornsea Mere, and in Winestead Woods are noteworthy, as the species is scarce in Holderness.

A female of the Northern race *D.m. major* was caught at Spurn on 12th April.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor***

Bred at Newburgh; and probably at Bishopthorpe; at Sandall Beat, Sixteen Acre Plantation, and Bretton Park, at a site in V.C. 64, and probably at three other sites in that vice-county. Records from a further five localities near York; from 27 in V.C. 63, and several in V.C. 64. Some of these would be breeding sites, but this species is elusive, and it is not easy to determine its true population.

**Woodlark *Lullula arborea***

One flew south at Spurn on 3rd October, and one was at the Warren, and then the Point on 6th.

**Skylark *Alauda arvensis***

Some southerly movement inland in the early months, with 250 over Duncroft on 14th February, and 175 over Fairburn on 28th, and 113 on 1st March. 150 at Spurn in January.

Autumn movement was light with south at Spurn, 936 on 10th October, and 564 on 12th. Inland, also during October, 148 south-west at Swillington on 4th, and 132 at Redmires Res. on 14th, and 200 west at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd. Most flocks reported were of under 100, except for 130 at Wath Ings on 11th October, and 250 at Wintersett on 25th, and 180 there on 8th December, and 200 at Broadstones on 9th, the latter presumably moving in front of hard weather. 355 arrived at Flamborough on 19th December, after heavy snow, but most had gone by the month end.

### **Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris***

In January, Barmston had one on 1st, two on 4th, three on 24th, and in March one on 8th. An autumn arrival on 17th and 18th October; with eight at Buckton, and three at Filey on 17th (and 18th), and three at Spurn on 18th. Spurn had twos on three dates, and ones on three, from 20th October to 2nd November, some down, and some passing over. One at Flamborough on 7th November, and ten at Barmston on 28th (SML).

### **Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

Many arrived during March, commencing with one at Fairburn Ings on 12th; three at Knotford Nook on 13th, and two at Wintersett Res. on 14th, then one to three at Blacktoft Sands, Potteric Carr, Pugney's G.P., Wath Ings, and Thrybergh, before a widespread arrival on 28th (ten localities) March, and a steady influx to 12th April. 50 at Knotford Nook on 30th March; 100 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 2nd April, and 90 at Wath Ings on 12th April were among the highest numbers.

Up to 1,500 at Mickletown Ings during August, and roost maxima of 5,000 at Swillington Ings on 27th, and 28th August; 3,000 at Fairburn Ings on 29th; 3,000 at Blacktoft Sands on 1st September, and up to 1,000 at Hornsea Mere on 27th September. Last at Blacktoft Sands on 9th October; at Hornsea Mere on 12th, and Flamborough on 19th.

### **Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

Singles between Atwick and Hornsea on 24th March; at York University on 26th; three at Potteric Carr on 27th; and further singles at Bishop Monkton on 28th; Cockhill on 29th, and Fairburn Ings on 31st, were followed by a general scattering of small numbers before the main influx from 10th to 20th April. The snow showers of late April, which were exceptional in places, caused difficulties for this species, and 32 were found dead in the lake at Lingerfield.

Roost maxima were not exceptional, the highest counts being, 5,000 at Blacktoft Sands on 21st August; 10,000 at Wheldrake Ings on 26th August, and 12th September; 18,000 at Aughton on 3rd and 4th September; 8,000 at Wath Ings in early September, and at Fairburn Ings on 28th; and 15,000 at Potteric Carr on 25th September, and five other roosts held 2,000 to 4,000 in September. 61,464 south at Spurn from August to October, with on 4th and 5th September, 28,500 of these.

Several November records mostly of singles, at Outlane on 2nd; Brighouse and Thorne on 3rd; Naburn on 11th; Filey on 22nd, and Spurn on 3rd and 23rd.

### **Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica***

Addition to the 1974 Report: One at Healaugh on 7th May (PJD).

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

### **House Martin *Delichon urbica***

Knaresborough Ringing Station had three on 2nd April, ten days before the next arrivals on the 12th which included 12 at Pugney's G.P., and singles at Flamborough, Eccup Res., Fairburn Ings, Wath Ings, and Wintersett Res. 200 to 250 at Fairburn Ings, and Hampsthwaite on 16th August; Tinsley on 19th, and Knaresborough R.S. on 29th August, and at Potteric Carr on 13th September and 3rd October. 500 at Hornsea Mere on 27th September, and at Wheldrake Ings on 3rd October. Late individuals during November, at Naburn on 6th; at Wigginton on 7th, and at Spurn on 4th (two), 12th and 14th.

### **Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae***

Singles at Filey Brigg on 7th October (PJD); at Hornsea Mere on 26th (DB, SB, RGH), and at Spurn on 27th and 28th (BB, BRS, IDW).

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

### **Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris***

One near the lighthouse at Spurn from 26th to 28th September (GPC, JC, DAR).

Accepted by *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*

One at Spurn just south of the Warren from 24th October to 1st November (SML, BRS *et al*), was the first record for Yorkshire.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Singles over Wintersett Res. on 8th April, and Harrogate on 9th; at Howell Wood, and Bretton Park on 10th, then at Tinsley S.F., and Gunthwaite Mill on 11th. A steady arrival through the remainder of April.

Quite well distributed as a breeding species apart from the coastal plain south of Flamborough.

Some evidence of passage inland during August, with 20 south at Mickleden on 12th, and ten west at Redmires Res. on 13th.

Late records of 15 at Wath Ings on 25th September; and on 3rd October, one at Hutton Conyers, two at Spurn, and one at Swillington Ings, where three flew south-west on 4th.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

400 at Fulford Ings on 14th and 15th February, was the largest flock in the early months.

Evidence of return movement at many places during March, but the highest numbers occurred during April. Amongst these were, 220 at Knotford Nook; 200 at Hay-a-Park G.P.; 300 at Harrogate S.F.; 140 at Digley; and large numbers in flocks of up to 50. flew east over Allerston Moor on 4th April.

Considerable movement inland mainly to the south and south-west, between 19th September and 10th October. These included totals of 711 (in three days) over Blackmoorfoot Res.; 5,772 (in three days) over Redmires Res; 440 (two days) over Concord Park; 1,154 (two days) over Mickleden Beck, 448 (four days) over Swillington Ings, and 500 over Knaresborough.

Southerly passage at Spurn from early September to early November, with maxima of 6,300 on 19th and 21st September, and 6,650 on 22nd.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus spinosetta*

Bred at Filey Brigg, and north of Scarborough. Common along the coast, and at Spurn, up to April, and from September. Southerly passage heaviest at Spurn during October with a total of 208, and also 26 on 2nd November. Regular in the winter, and autumn, along the Humber up to Blacktoft Sands, where present up to 6th March, and from 22nd October. 13 between Cherry Cob and Weeton, on 14th February, and 26 between Welwick and Cherry Cob, on 22nd November (SML). Elsewhere inland, ten records of singles up to 27th April, and 12 records of one to three, from 12th October (with most in that month), and some remaining for up to a week.

Individuals showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A.s. littoralis* at Filey on 17th March and 7th April; at Flamborough on 28th March, with ten there on 5th April; at Cherry Cob on 4th April, and at Pugney's G.P. on 5th.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Singles at Pugney's G.P. on 25th and Bubwith on 26th March; Wombwell on 5th April; Knaresborough Ringing Station, and Fairburn Ings on 8th. On 9th April five at Thrybergh Res., and arrivals at three other places, after which widespread appearances from the 10th to 20th. Spring maxima were quite low with 40 at Pugney's G.P. on 22nd; 45 at Fairburn Ings on 26th April; 32 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 28th, and 31 at Harrogate S.F. on 3rd May.

The only high autumn counts were in the Dearne and Don valleys, with 110 at Wath Ings, and 100 at Potteric Carr on 10th August, and 70 at Wombwell Ings on 14th; and on 4th September no fewer than 500 at Potteric Carr. Elsewhere 40 at Swillington Ings on 2nd August, and at Faxfleet on 13th and 29th. Late individuals at eight inland sites on 3rd and 4th October; at Blacktoft Sands on 6th; Spurn on 13th and 14th, and Doncaster on 27th.

Many areas in V.C. 64 had a lower breeding population than usual.

Birds of the Blue-headed race *M.f. flava* at Spurn on many days from 9th April to 6th June, including a pair which attempted to breed, but disappeared on the last date when they had been feeding young in the nest. Maxima of eight of this race on 10th May, and six on 11th. Others at

Hornsea Mere on 2nd May, and 25th September; at Flamborough on 18th, 19th and 24th May, and 10th August, and at Spurn from 20th to 26th September.

Two birds showing characteristics of the grey-headed race *M.f. thunbergi* at Spurn on 19th May.

One showing characteristics of Sykes's Wagtail *M.f. beema* at Bolton-on-Swale on 9th May (CB).

Inland, blue-headed birds at Wath Ings on 1st May, and on Hatfield Moors on 5th May.

A male Ashy-headed Wagtail, *M.f. cinercicapilla* from 15th to 17th April, at Blacktoft Sands (GT et al.).

#### **Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

Good numbers in breeding localities in the Sheffield and Huddersfield areas, indicates a healthy situation, with some recovery from the effects of the 1978/79 winter.

Wider spread in the winter months, particularly in V.C. 61, where the only breeding proved was at Garrowby.

#### **Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

The roost at York Carriage Works was by far the largest, with a maximum of 700. Other roosts in the early months of over 100 birds were, Fowldsike Flash in January; Naburn S.W. in February, and Harrogate S.F. with 180 on 16th January. Higher numbers later in the year included 200 at Pool Paper Mills in mid-July; 150 on Ilkley Moor on 8th, and 300 at Potteric Carr on 9th September; 150 at Old Denaby on 30th; 200 at Farnley Res. on 9th October, and 150 at Fowldsike Flash on 13th.

An interesting nest site at Rivelin Glen Quarry, where a pair reared two broods in a rock-cutting power saw, the bird sitting even when the saw was in use.

Birds showing the characteristics of White Wagtail *M.a. alba* at 25 localities between 12th March (Spurn), and 4th June (Blacktoft), with from one to four, apart from 12 at Wath Ings on 28th April.

Addition to the 1980 Report: A roost of 100 in ivy covered walls in Thirsk Market Place on 6th December.

#### **Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus***

Two at Tadcaster Road, York, in early January. Between 11th November and the year end, ones and twos at 12 localities in the York, Ripon, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Doncaster, and Sheffield areas, plus three at Barnoldswick from 23rd to 29th November, and at Horsforth on 13th December, when two were at Fairburn Ings. One at Commandon (V.C. 62) on 1st December, and six at Earlsheaton, Dewsbury from 15th to 18th.

#### **Dipper *Cinclus cinclus***

Common along the rivers of the Yorkshire Dales, but still below pre-1978/79 numbers, especially along the lower reaches of the rivers. A good breeding population in the Huddersfield area, with at least 13 pairs present; also present in at least four localities near Sheffield.

Probably bred at one site in V.C. 61, and present at two others. Few records from V.C. 62, but doubtless more breeding than those at the three sites reported.

#### **Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

Reports on breeding status were received from V.C. 63, where in general numbers have increased, particularly in localities away from the higher ground in the Wakefield, Doncaster, Rotherham, Barnsley, and Sheffield areas; and in V.C. 64, where despite some increases, are generally below pre-1979 figures. Maxima at Spurn of 35 on 15th October, and 15 at Flamborough on 18th.

#### **Dunnock *Prunella modularis***

20 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 1st January, and 22 at Thorp Arch S.F. in January. Evidence of passage at Flamborough, with 40 on 3rd and 12th October, and peaks of over 50 at Spurn on 30th August, 16th September and 14th October. A successful breeding season in V.C. 64, and in general remains a common, and widespread breeding species.

22 at Knostrop on 15th November.

### **Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

Evidence of autumn influxes during October with 20 at Swillington Ings on 3rd; 27 at Fairburn Ings on 4th; and 25 at Flamborough on 24th. Birds of the continental race *E.r. rubecula* on six dates at Flamborough between 29th March and 25th May.

### **Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos***

Present on Hatfield Moors during the breeding season. Singles at Finningley on 15th May (AM); at Atwick on 27th (WFC); at Bishop Wood, Selby on 4th June (TED), and at Naburn S.F. on 18th (JG).

### **Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica***

A male of the white spotted race *L.s. cyanecula* sang regularly at Blacktoft Sands between 12th and 19th May (BA *et al.*). At Spurn a female on 11th May and two males on 13th. A female at Filey on 16th May (TIC *et al.*). One at Spurn on 3rd October.

### **Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

Typical spring passage in coastal localities, with one to two at Spurn on 21 days, between 26th March and 24th May; plus three on 29th March, and 5th April; similarly at Flamborough on eight days between 2nd April and 1st May, plus nine on 5th April; and at Filey, two on 11th April, and singles on 8th and 16th May, and also on 12th July. One at Cadeby Colliery on 4th June.

Six pairs bred in Sheffield, and two of these had second broods. One pair bred at Thorpe Marsh.

Autumn passage at the same localities as in the spring, with singles at Spurn on 4th and 14th October, then four on 18th, and one to the month end, and two on 8th November. One at Flamborough on 17th October, two on 19th, and one on 25th, and one at Filey on 24th. Singles inland at Carlton-in-Lindrick on 16th November, and at Tophill Low Res. on 10th December.

One at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 31st March and 2nd April.

### **Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

One at Filey on 3rd April was very early, and a week before singles at Spurn, and Blacktoft Sands. First arrivals at other places were generally between 22nd April and 4th May, but one was at Wath in Nidderdale on 14th April.

The only breeding pair reported from V.C. 61 was at Dunnington. The majority of reports from breeding areas in V.C. 63 were in wooded valleys along the eastern slopes of the Pennines. Six males at Wymingbrook on 3rd June. Reported as still breeding widely, though thinly, away from the Dales, in V.C. 64.

Coastal passage in the autumn was very poor, with 30 at Spurn on 2nd September, as the maximum.

Late singles inland during September, at Redmires Res. on 15th; Selby Brick Ponds on 17th, and Rivelin on 19th. Much later on the coast, with one at Filey; four at Flamborough; and three at Spurn on 18th declining to the last one there on 22nd October.

### **Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***

Singles at Flamborough on 12th April; Thorpe Marsh on 14th; Hatfield Moor, and Thrybergh Tip on 18th, and Scout Dike on 20th, with only a few to the month end; the main influx being from 3rd to 15th May.

Good breeding numbers in the uplands of V.C. 63 and V.C. 64, but fewer in the lowlands, although the Wath Ings area held 13 pairs.

16 at Fairburn Ings from 24th to 29th August, and 12 at Cawood, and 15 at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd September. Passage at Spurn peaked from 2nd to 5th September, with counts of 50 to 67 on those days, and maxima at Flamborough of 28 on 6th, 26 on 12th and 27 on 19th September; and also on 12th, 29 at Filey, and 17 at Hollym Carrs.

October records were quite numerous, including singles at Tinsley S.F., and Thorp Arch on 11th; at Spurn the last there on 22nd; two at Blacktoft Sands from 18th to 20th, one remaining to 5th November, and one at Flamborough on 1st November.

### **Stonechat *Saxicola torquata***

Despite a considerable increase compared with 1980, this was only a moderate year.

V.C. 61: A wide scattering along the coast up to mid-April, and from mid-September, at Filey, Flamborough, Cowden, Withernsea, and Spurn. Generally singles, occasionally two, except for three at Spurn on 2nd April, and at Flamborough on 18th October; and at Spurn in the autumn, up to seven during October plus 11 on 14th, and four in November. Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 5th January; Sunk Island on 4th April, and Wheldrake Ings on 16th and 18th October.

Single immatures at Flamborough on 18th and 19th, and from 21st to 31st October were believed to be of the race *S.t. stejnegeri*.

The latter has been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee, but the former has not yet been submitted to that committee.

V.C. 62: Single males at Grinsthorpe on 5th March, and at Jackson's Bay on 7th May.

V.C. 63: Singles at Thorpe Marsh on 5th February; during March at Langsett (1st, 5th); Thundercliffe Grange (7th); Thrybergh Res. (19th), and Parkway, Sheffield (20th). During May, one on Doncaster airfield on 3rd, and two males at Wilsic on 24th. During the autumn singles at Streethouse on 28th September; at Blacktoft Sands on 28th September, 1st October, and 1st and 2nd November; at Whitley Common on 11th and 18th October, and at Tinsley S.F. on 22nd November.

V.C. 64: Singles at Fairburn Ings on 7th and 11th January, and 15th February; at Swillington Ings from 11th to 18th January; at Fewston on 10th January; at Esholt S.W. on 1st, and at Sicklinghall on 15th March, and at Colsterdale on 21st April. In the autumn, one at Fewston on 21st November and 2nd December, and on Barden Moor, two on 2nd, and one on 3rd December.

### **Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***

One at Wickersley on 7th March was well in advance of the next one at Flamborough on 21st, with on the following day ones and twos at Scalby Mills, Knotford Nook, Esholt, Oulton, Potteric Carr, and Midhopestones. Appeared at 16 other localities during March, including 11 each at Spurn on 26th, and Buckstones Rocks on 29th. Peaks during April of 22 at Broadstones on 9th, and 40 at Flamborough on 12th, before an influx in early May, with 17 at Filey on 8th; 35 between Welwick and Paull on 10th, and a maximum of 38 at Spurn. Some individuals of the Greenland race *O.o. leucorrhoea* at a few places, including 26 at Flamborough on 10th May.

Breeding widespread in upland localities.

An autumn maximum of 45 at Spurn during the first week of September, and the last occurred here on 23rd October.

The few October records inland were singles, at Concord Park on 1st; Blacktoft Sands, and Southfield Res. on 3rd; at Stearsby on 9th; at Pugney's G.P., and Ingbirchworth Res. (two) on 10th.

### **Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus***

One on Blubberhouses Moor on 15th March, and two at Digley on 22nd, where a steady build up reached 16 from 17th to 21st April. Appeared at 12 more localities before the end of March, including eight in Colsterdale.

A satisfactory breeding situation south west and west of Huddersfield, and in Upper Wharfedale, but possibly a little scarcer than normal in Upper Nidderdale.

The latest inland were during October, at Scrayingham on 6th; at Leighton Res. on 11th; Rivelin Valley on 14th; Ardsley Res. on 15th, and Duck Street on 18th. The usual coastal records in October with one to four on six dates at Flamborough to 25th; one at Filey on 24th; and singles on four dates at Spurn to 27th.

### **Blackbird *Turdus merula***

The largest roosts were those at York University, with 700 in January, and 400 in December, and at Headingley with over 500 in January and February. Several other roosts, and localities, held from 100 to 200 both early, and late in the year.

The main autumn movement commenced at Spurn on 18th October, with from 100 to 500 on many days to mid-November, with peaks of 1,400 on 24th October, and 1,500 on 7th November.

A similar influx at Flamborough, with 250 on 18th October, 460 on 24th, and 720 on 7th November; at Filey, 453 came in on 24th October, and 200 were on Scarborough Castle Hill on 22nd October. Marked increases noted inland during mid-November including 229 on Hatfield Moors on 15th.

#### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Apart from 500 at Ellerton on 8th February, flocks were of no more than 250, until 12th March, when 935 were near Ingbirchworth. Larger flocks in the last week of March, of 500 in the Ewden valley; 300 at Carlton Marsh; 400 at Aughton; 500 at Dent Head, and 1,000 at Thorlby; and 1,000 at Sharow on 1st April. Flocks of 500 to 800 between the 4th and 20th April, at Crosland Hill, Gunthwaite, Bretton Park, Outlane Moor, West Witton and Bramham, and then on 25th, and 26th April, after heavy snowfall, significant increases to similar numbers at Horsforth, Fairburn Ings, east over Wintersett, and at Allerton Park. Flocks of up to 200 at a few places in early May, and late singles at Robert Beck near Harrogate on 16th; Howell Wood on 19th, and at Fairburn on 24th. One at Flamborough on 6th June.

Singles at Spurn on three August days, and at Hatfield Moors on 16th, and Wath Ings on 25th. Up to three at five places in September, and 100 at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 28th. Small numbers, of up to 15, at seven places, before a general influx from 12th to 14th October, although 1,176 flew west over Redmires Res. on 10th October. Peaks of 1,300 at Spurn on 13th October, and 1,500 at Flamborough on 18th; whilst inland, 1,351 west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 17th; 1,000 at Wath Ings on 26th, and 2,400 at Fairburn Ings on 31st. Flocks of up to 600 at three places in V.C. 61, in late October, and up to 1,000 at Wheldrake Ings into November. 350 to 500 at six places in V.C. 63, and similar numbers at several places in V.C. 64. 750 at Crosland Hill, Huddersfield on 1st December, but with the onset of severe weather on 13th numbers were much reduced throughout the County.

Addition to the 1980 Report: A pair defended territory at Rivelin but abandoned it in early May.

#### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

22 were at Hollym Carrs on 12th September, but otherwise larger numbers followed an influx in mid-October, with on 18th, 50 at Flamborough, and 40 at Fairburn, and on 21st, 48 at Anchor Plain near York. Hard weather movements resulted in the appearance of 20 at Filey on 12th December, and 45 at Spurn on 19th. 45 on Heworth Golf Course on 8th October.

#### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

In V.C. 61 and V.C. 64 numbers were low during the first two months, apart from 120 at Pudsey on 1st January, and 175 at Mickleton on 3rd, and 200 roosting at Headingley in January and February. In V.C. 63 numbers were higher, with 200 each at Bradley Wood on 30th January, and Thrybergh Tip on 11th February, and 280 at Clayton West on 12th, and four other areas had 100 to 150. During the return passage from mid-March to early April, flocks of 100 to 200 at Tophill Low, near Naburn, Fulford Ings, and at Strensall Common, and 500 were at Sprotbrough on 30th and 31st March, and 420 at Blackmoorfoot on 4th April. Many over Scarborough flying east on the night of 1st April. Three on Hatfield Moors, and one at Sandall Beat on 29th April, and singles at Pannal on 5th May, were the latest inland, and the last at Spurn occurred on 17th May.

Singles inland, before the autumn influx, at Shirecliffe on 27th August; at Ingbirchworth on 19th September; Lodge Moor on 24th, and at Blackmoorfoot on 29th. A general steady arrival of small numbers for the first week of October. The highest numbers on the coast from 6th to 24th October, with on the first date, 440 at Spurn, 204 at Filey, and 145 at Flamborough; then on 13th, 500 at Spurn, and 800 there on 24th; and on 18th 500 at Flamborough; and 153 at Filey on the 19th. Other flocks generally below 100, except, 200 at Ripon Parks on 8th October, and 300 at Langsett on 18th; 300 at Wheldrake Ings on 1st, and 120 at Tudworth on 8th November. 191 flew west over Redmires Res. on 4th November, and up to 1,000 roosted at Bramhope, in the early part of the month. Numbers low in December, except for 150 at Oughtibridge on 8th.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Flocks of 20 to 40 at more than a dozen places from August to November, plus during August, 42 at Bishop Monkton on 4th; 57 at ICI, Harrogate on 7th; 45 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 22nd, and 50 at Timble on 31st, and during September, 50 at Midhope on 15th, and 84 on Lodge Moor on 24th.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*.

First at Swillington on 11th April, then singles at Wintersett, and Bowden Housteads Wood on 12th; Spurn on 13th; Mickletown Ings on 16th, and Hornsea Mere on 21st. Bred at Wintersett Res. (four pairs), and present through the summer at Mickletown Ings, and Blacktoft Sands, and also at Spurn where birds were at three sites. Also occurred at six sites in V.C. 61; three sites in V.C. 62; ten other sites in V.C. 63; two in V.C. 64; and one in V.C. 65. Last at Mickletown Ings (three), and Wintersett Res. on 9th August, and at Stainton on 10th.

**River Warbler** *Locustella fluviatilis*

One caught and ringed at the Warren at Spurn on 24th August (BB, MVS, BRS), was the first record for Yorkshire.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola*

Two on the canal at Spurn on 8th and 9th August. (GJH, GJS, BRS *et al.*)

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A very early arrival at Fairburn Ings of one on 9th April, and early singles at Wheldrake Ings on 12th; Healey S.F. on 13th; Hornsea Mere on 14th; and Potteric Carr on 15th. Wider dispersal from 18th to 23rd April.

Suitable areas again held good numbers of breeding pairs, with 65 at Blacktoft Sands; 35 at Potteric Carr; 25 at Wath Ings; 11 at Swillington Ings; 22 at Mickletown Ings; 29 at Fairburn Ings, and 24 at Wheldrake Ings.

Latest inland were singles, at Wintersett Res. on 26th September, and Wheldrake Ings on 29th, and at Blacktoft Sands on 5th October. Last one at Spurn on 8th October.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 15th April; Blacktoft Sands on 18th; Fairburn Ings on 25th; and Potteric Carr on 27th, before a more general arrival in early May at several sites including Hornsea Mere, Mickletown Ings and Naburn S.W.

Blacktoft Sands again had 400 pairs; Fairburn Ings 17 pairs; Wintersett Res. 12 pairs; Potteric Carr 20 pairs (a decrease of 70 per cent), and Mickletown Ings had 25 singing males. Present at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough from at least 15th May, and on 25th July an adult was feeding two juveniles, and three singing males were heard.

Late birds at Fairburn Ings on 27th September, and Blacktoft Sands on 19th October, and along the coast at Flamborough on 18th, and Spurn on 20th October.

**Booted Warbler** *Hippolais caligata*

One caught at Spurn on 5th September remained until 7th (BB, BRS *et al.*). Second record for Yorkshire.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*

Early autumn records at Flamborough, with six on 8th August, four on 9th, and one on 10th; then singles on 29th August, and 7th September (PAL, IS, AG *et al.*).

Singles at Spurn on 23rd August, and 3rd September, then two on 5th, and one on 6th.

**Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*

One at Flamborough on 14th and 15th May (AG, JH, DGH).

Second record for Yorkshire.

**Desert Warbler** *Sylvia nana*

One at Flamborough on 24th October (AMA, DGH, PAL).

Second record for Yorkshire.

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*

Singles at Flamborough on 9th and 10th August; two on 29th, and three on 30th (PAL, IS et al); and one on 2nd September (DW). Singles at Filey Brigg on 2nd and 12th September (DF, TIC, WAC, HJW).

At Spurn, on various parts of the penninsular, individuals from 25th August to 28th, and 30th August to 16th September; numbered two on 26th, and three on 31st August; two on 2nd, three on 4th and 6th, and two on 7th and 8th September, otherwise singles.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Two at Wintersett Res. on 11th April, and singles at Fairburn Ings on 13th; Denaby Ings on 19th, and Wheldrake Ings on 20th; before a more general arrival from 30th April to 10th May. On the latter date numbers peaked on the coast with 13 at Filey Brigg; 48 at Flamborough, and 50 at Spurn, where there were 40 on 9th, and 25 on 11th May.

Bred at Spurn for the first time; in at least nine other places in V.C. 61, plus two other sites near York, and occurred at three localities in V.C. 62. Bred at Wintersett (seven pairs), and Ravenfield in V.C. 63, and occurred at 11 other sites during May and June. 16 at Fairburn Ings on 29th August. Late singles inland at Sprotbrough Flash on 19th, and Potteric Carr on 20th September. One at Filey, and four at Flamborough on 18th October, and the last at Spurn on 14th and 15th November. One caught at Spurn on 23rd October showed characters of the Siberian race *S.c. blythi*. It remained until 2nd November.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

The first was at Spurn on 10th April, where two appeared on 18th, on which date singles were at Hatfield Moors, Wath Ings, Woodhouse Mill, and Eccleshill; and on 21st singles at Parlington Park, and Bretton Park. Became more generally distributed between 1st and 10th May.

In general a satisfactory breeding season, with higher numbers in many localities than in recent years. At least 30 pairs at Potteric Carr, and 16 pairs at Wintersett Res.

Late individuals at Wintersett on 24th September; Fairburn Ings on 27th; Flamborough on 30th, and Spurn on 4th October.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

One in the Rivelin Valley on 18th April, and another at Sandall Beat on 29th, but generally arrivals were not early, and the species only appeared at seven more places between 3rd and 8th May.

Increase in breeding pairs at Wath Ings, and Wintersett Res. Up to 15 singing males at Parlington Park in May and June. Singles at Pool-in-Wharfedale on 27th September, and at Allerton Park on 3rd October; two each at Tinsley S.F. on 17th, and at Spurn on 20th, and one at Flamborough on 25th October.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

With one or two birds wintering at 11 localities, the first spring arrivals are not easy to detect when compiling a report, but singles at Sprotbrough Flash on 29th March and Spurn on 30th, were probably the first. Others at Knaresborough Ringing Station, and Wentworth on 5th April, and at eight more localities between 8th and 11th.

Coastal passage in the autumn was light. 18 at Flamborough on 18th October, being the highest. October records were widespread inland, and during November, one or two were at 11 localities, and during December, singles were at six more localities.

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

One at Flamborough on 8th August (DGH, PAL).

Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*

One at Scarborough on 15th August (PJD, CAM), and one near Kilnsea church from 2nd to 6th September (BB, BRS *et al*). The fourth and fifth records for the County.

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

On 18th October one on Beacon Lane (JED *et al*), which remained to 21st; one at the Warren, Spurn (JC, PAD, BRS *et al*) which remained to 20th, and two south of 'wire dump' at Spurn (BMcC, AJ, JH *et al*). One at Easington on 20th October (AG).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

An exceptional autumn at Flamborough, with two on 3rd and one on 4th October; one on 17th, then seven on 18th, three on 19th, and two on 25th October; and singles on 31st, and in November on 1st, 7th and 30th.

One at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea on 18th October (BGP *et al*); and in the Spurn, and Kilnsea village area one from 18th to 20th another from 21st to 25th, and other singles on 19th and 22nd. One on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 24th October (RHA).

Addition to the 1980 Report: One at Kilnsea on 7th November.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

A good number of April records, with singles at Howell Wood on 15th; Spa Gill Woods on 17th; The Hollies, Leeds on 18th; and on 20th at Melton Wood, Adel Dam and Hebers Ghyll; and in at least seven more localities before 1st May. Appears to have been a good year for the species, with more than usual at Spurn on passage; good numbers in parts of V.C. 63, including eight males at Wymingbrook on 3rd June; and larger numbers of singing males at many of the regular sites in V.C. 64.

The last inland at Thrybergh Tip on 23rd August, and last one at Spurn on 17th September.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

One in the Harrogate S.F. area during January and February, and one at Wintersett Res. on 1st and 14th February. Singles at Almholme on 7th March, and Spurn on 14th, then two at Denaby Ings on 15th; singles at Elvington on 19th, and on 20th at Fulford, Wintersett Res. and Harthill Res. and with birds at 20 more localities before the month end, was widely distributed at the beginning of April.

Three at Naburn on 24th November, and the last one at Spurn on 26th, and singles at Seamer Road Mere, Skipwith Common and Wintersett Res. during that month. One at Howell Wood on 2nd and 12th December, and one at Hunmanby on 12th.

Birds showing characters of the races *P.c. abietinus* at Flamborough on 18th, 25th and 31st October; and on 11th (three), 13th (six), and 14th November, and of the race *P.c. tristis* on 18th October, and 7th and 8th November (AG, PAL, IS).

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Early arrivals were all well inland, with singles at Wintersett Res. on 27th March; at Fairburn Ings, Crimple Valley and Turnerwood on 28th, and at four more places by the month end. At many localities between 2nd and 9th April, but the major influx was from 11th to 16th.

Of 95 at Flamborough on 10th May, at least 20 were considered to be of the race *P.t. acredua*. One showing characters of this race at Wintersett on 15th August. Maxima for the year at Spurn of 65 on 9th May, and 58 on 10th.

Singles at Adel Dam on 10th October; Spurn on 18th and Filey on 21st, and two at Scabba Wood on 25th October

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

A well recorded autumn influx on the coast with at Spurn, maxima of 76 on 12th October; 120 on 18th and 70 on 20th, with at least 50 on 13th, 19th and 22nd; at Flamborough, 75 on 12th, and 183 on 18th October, when 39 were at Filey; and at Castle Hill, Scarborough, 100 on 22nd

October. Over a dozen inland localities had 20 to 50 during the period mid-October to early November, with higher numbers at Scoreby Wood (Kexby) of 100 on 16th October, and 114 at Skipwith Common on 21st November.

#### **Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus***

Two singles at Spurn remained until 24th January, and 15th February respectively. Either three or four individuals at Spurn, on dates between 27th March and 12th April. Flamborough had singles on four dates from 28th March to 12th April.

Inland singles at Edgerton, Huddersfield on 14th February; at Lindley Wood Res. on 4th and 5th April, and at Sawdon on 6th April.

Singles at Bridlington on 4th May, and at Spurn on 27th and 28th.

Spurn had the first of the autumn, with one on 5th and 6th September, and one on 27th; then one on 19th, and two on 20th October. One at Flamborough on 10th October; four on 18th, and one on 11th November.

#### **Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata***

An exceptionally early bird flew into the Tennants Arms in Upper Wharfedale during a snowstorm on 25th April, and subsequently died. One at Burghwallis on 29th April, and one at Parlington Park on 2nd May, with more widespread arrivals on the coast, and inland, from 8th to 10th May.

Though 20 were at Flamborough on 21st May, both spring and autumn passage along the coast was light.

21 at Bolton Abbey Woods on 19th June.

Late birds at Gouthwaite Res. on 25th September; Edgerton and Concord Park on 28th; Graves Park on 29th; and at Filey Brigg on 10th October, and Spurn on 18th.

#### **Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva***

One at Spurn on 29th August, and one at Filey on 2nd September (DF). Singles at Flamborough on 26th September, and 18th October (PAL, IS), and two at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea on the same date (BGP *et al.*). Singles at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 22nd October (RHA), and from 23rd to 25th (MDW). An interesting inland record of one at Bradfield, west of Sheffield, on 18th October (DG, PJF).

#### **Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca***

The earliest arrivals were in V.C. 64, with one at Spa Gill on 17th April, and two at Thorpe Arch on 23rd. Singles at Sandall Beat, and Potteric Carr on 29th April, and at only three other places, on later dates, in V.C. 63. Few elsewhere in the county, apart from the breeding strongholds of the Dales. 23 in Bolton Abbey Woods on 19th June. 24 nest boxes alongside the R. Greta occupied by this species. Coastal passage very light, with a maximum of 21 at Spurn on 2nd September.

Latest inland, one at Potteric Carr on 11th September, and on the coast singles at Flamborough on 12th October, and Spurn on 20th.

#### **Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus***

Blacktoft sands had a wintering population of about 150, and by the spring 60 pairs were established. Some 600 present in late September, of which 200 remained in December, and survived despite the cold spell at the year end (AG).

Occurred along the Broomfleet area of the Upper Humber, with up to seven in the early months, and more in the last three months including 23 on 15th October, 20 on 8th November, and 18 on 14th November, and 11 on 19th December (AC).

Hornsea Mere had up to three to the end of February; six on 15th October, and one to three on a few later dates. Two at Wheldrake Ings on 10th May, and 12 on 18th October. One at Tophill Low Res. on 14th October.

#### **Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus***

Although many flocks were reported from V.C. 61 the York area, V.C. 63 and V.C. 64, particularly during the autumn, numbers were probably less than in 1980, as no flock exceeded 40.

### **Marsh Tit *Parus palustris***

Outnumbers the next species in V.C. 64, at such localities as High Batts, Parlington Park and Bramham, and in the Dales and is quite frequent in the northern parts of the York O.C. area in the Howardian Hills, and also in the dales of the North Yorkshire Moors. Bred at Roche Abbey, and four were at Sandall Beat on 22nd April, otherwise in V.C. 63 only one or two at four places. One at Tophill Low Res. on 20th October.

### **Willow Tit *Parus montanus***

Only two singles at Flamborough where the species bred regularly five years ago. Information from V.C. 61, and V.C. 64 a little sparse, but is certainly breeding in reasonable numbers, and in V.C. 62 north of York. Well distributed in V.C. 63, away from the Pennines, with 20 pairs breeding at Potteric Carr, and smaller numbers at more than 20 localities. 19 on Hatfield Moors on 4th October.

Two on Skipwith Common on 24th December showed characteristics of the race *P.m. borealis* (TED, EBB).

### **Coal Tit *Parus ater***

Good numbers breeding in V.C. 62, 63 and 64. Several winter flocks of over 20 reported. A total of 39 moved west, and south west at Redmires Res., on 13th and 14th October. Several of the birds at Flamborough in the autumn resembled the continental race *P.a. ater*.

### **Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus***

An autumn influx along the coast was most marked in October, with over 30 on four days at Spurn; 30 at Filey Brigg on 12th; 70 at Flamborough on 18th, and 78 there on 13th November.

100 at Bretton Park on 1st January, and 50–60 at Fulford Ings on 25th January; Sandall Beat on 23rd April; Potteric Carr on 24th October; Howell Wood on 8th December, and over 100 at Blacktoft Sands in early December.

### **Great Tit *Parus major***

50 in Bretton Park on 1st January, otherwise no flocks of more than 20 reported. Minor coastal influx from 12th to 18th October.

### **Nuthatch *Sitta europaea***

Bred at five localities near York in V.C.s 61 and 62; probably at two more, and present at Garrowby in August/September. An increase in V.C. 63, with reports from 20 localities near Sheffield, including at least three pairs at Graves Park; and significant records elsewhere of six at Sandbeck Park on 20th April; four at Kings Wood on 6th June; a pair at Bretton Park; and parties including juveniles at Hirst Wood, and Holme House Wood near Bingley. Possibly a slight increase in V.C. 64, where the species is at its most common, and reports from three localities in V.C. 65.

Singles at Scarborough on 27th January and 10th August, and present during April in Farndale, Bransdale and at Rievaulx.

### **Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris***

Indications from localities in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64, that the increase of 1980 has continued. Two of the race *C.f. familiaris* at Flamborough on 25th October (AMA, DGH, PAL).

### **Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus***

Two at Blacktoft Sands from 25th November to 31st December, were probably first-year male, and first-year female (AG, DH, DN *et al.*) Second record for Yorkshire.

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

### **Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus***

A male sang briefly at Fairburn Ings on 4th June (GRW).

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

Flamborough had three on 9th August; two on 10th, and two on 12th (PAL, VAL, PAD). Seven different birds at Spurn as follows: 9th to 17th August; 13th to 15th; and 23rd and 25th August; 4th to 6th September; 12th to 28th September, and 1st October. Singles at York University on 2nd September (TED), and Heworth Golf Course on 7th (SC). One at Filey from 12th to 25th September, and another on 12th October (HJW). One at Bramham from 18th to 20th October (AM, GT, BT, BD).

**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*

One at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea from 30th August to about 8th September (PE, BGP, RGS, JMT, JC).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

One in the York University area from 1st January to 22nd March, was also at Fulford Ings on three dates (TED *et al*). One in the Wath Ings and Broomhill Flash areas from 27th January to 14th March. Singles at Strensall Common on 5th January (DW); at Anchor Plain on 5th March (RAI), and at Wentworth on 6th (FH, WAH). Two at Atwick on 3rd April (WFC).

Singles at Flamborough on 19th October, and at Filey Brigg on 23rd and 24th (SC, HJW). Singles at Grange Estate, Rotherham on 15th November (AH, SJH, KJH); at Scawthorpe on 3rd December (RJR), and at Elvington on 22nd (TB). One at Cayton Carrs on 8th November (FT).

One at Coniston in Upper Wharfedale on 19th January.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

An adult at Welton Water on 12th June (NPS).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Numbers at Hornsea Mere are increasing slowly, with up to ten present this year, otherwise no reports east of the Wolds.

21 in the Wintersett area on 21st January, and 20 at Potteric Carr on 1st March. 59 on Hatfield Moors on 4th October, and good numbers in the Rivelin Valley from late September.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Rivelin Hagg, and Great Hollins Wood had over 100 during January and February, and the well studied population of the Rivelin Valley has the highest known breeding density in England (KC). Roost maxima at Blackmoorfoot Res. of 130 on 2nd February; and over 60 on 1st November; and at Dane's Dyke, Flamborough, 70 on 4th January, and 60 on 28th November. 105 at Adel Dam on 25th February, and 79 at Shadwell in December. At least 50 at ten other roosts.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

1,000 flew west at Buttercrambe Wood on 23rd September. The roost at Hornsea Mere was estimated to contain 2,000 on 10th November, the more normal number there is about 500. 700 at Frickley Park at the end of the year.

800 at Farnham G.P. on 10th January, and up to 750 in the roost at Cookridge, Leeds. 1,100 at Tadcaster on 22nd December.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

15,000 roosting at Frickley Park during the winter months, and 10,000 at Bretton Park on 1st December. 10,000 at Cookridge on 8th January.

### **Carrion Crow *Corvus corone***

70 at Bentley Tilts during January and February; 110 at Anchor Plain on 27th February, and 100 at Pugney's G.P. on 6th March. 74 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd August.

The species continues to increase near inhabited areas, and nested in a suburban garden at Main Bridge, Sheffield.

74 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd August, and 79 north at Wilsic on 7th November. A pure white individual with black eyes and bill, in the Washburn/lower Wharfedale area in February and March.

Hooded Crows, *C.c. cornix* were most frequent along the coast, with one at Scalby Mills regularly between 3rd January and 8th April; two at Filey on 14th February; on 13 days at Flamborough up to 25th May, including seven on 2nd April; and on five days at Spurn from 7th to 29th April (two), and also singles on 3rd and 7th June. During the autumn, on four days at both Flamborough and Spurn, mainly in October. Singles inland, at Weeton on 14th February, and Warter on 26th March. One north west over Wintersett Res. on 14th November; two at Apperley Bridge on 15th; one over Fairburn Ings on 17th; one at Thorne on 28th November, and one at Tophill Low on 29th December.

### **Raven *Corvus corax***

Most records from V.C. 65, with singles at Muker, Pott Moor and Grimesgill; and four at Cautley on 2nd August, two at Uldale on 23rd, and two near Stang on 11th September.

Probably no longer breeding within the present day administrative boundaries of Yorkshire.

One at Fairburn Ings on 16th June flying north (CW), and one at Arncliffe on 24th June (PMW).

### **Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

1,500 in off the sea, at Scalby Mills on 28th January, and 835 at Spurn on 13th October.

5,000 at Adlingfleet drain head on 23rd August; 12,000 at Catcliffe on 24th September, and at Mickletown Ings in late summer and autumn; 10,000 at Hornsea Mere on 2nd November, and 6,000 at Wath Ings on 3rd. At Redmires Res. 2,066 west on 1st, and 2,834 on 3rd November. 21,077 roosting in Huddersfield town centre on 18th November. 25,000 at Thorpe Arch S.F. in the early months, and 38,000 roosting at Helks Gill in early December, 50,000 west over Swillington Ings on 2nd August.

### **House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***

Flock of 800 at the Warren, Spurn in late January. 700 at Wombwell S.F. on 8th August.

### **Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus***

Flocks of 50 to 100 at five localities in the early months, and at eight localities, late in the year. Larger flocks of 100 on Dunnington Common in January; 100 at Ellerton Tip in March; 350 at Warmworth Cemetery during August; 117 at Wintersett on 21st November; 187 at Breighton on 12th December, and up to 160 at Spurn in December. 250 near Sicklinghall on 4th, and 155 near Lumby on 18th January.

### **Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

Flocks of 100 to 200 at nine places in the first two months, and at five in the last two months. 4,000 moved west and south west, at Redmires Res. between mid-July and mid-November, including 334 on 15th October. 300 at Sawdon, west of Scarborough on 30th November, and 600 at Broomhead Hall on 4th December. 300 at Gouthwaite on 21st February.

### **Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

Apart from flocks of 200 at Malton, and at Carr Lane, York, during January, and 300 between Kildale and Commandale on 6th February the species was quite scarce in the two eastern vice-counties. Exceptional flocks of 800 at ICI, Harrogate, and 1,000 at Gotts Park, Leeds on 17th January, and 2,000 at Everton Carrs, Doncaster on 28th January. Flocks of 300 to 400 during January at Broomhead Hall, Porter Clough, Hook Moor, and Bretton Park. Similar numbers during late March at Hollingdale, Botanical Gardens (Sheffield), and up to 500 at

Beauchief. On 2nd May, 150 at Woolley Woods, and 14 at Esholt S.F.; on 3rd, 60 at Sawdon; on 16th one at Sprotborough, and two at Hackenthorpe; on 22nd two at Spurn, and finally on 29th May, one at Fairburn.

One at Spurn on 1st September, and the next at Knotford Nook on 2nd October. Only small numbers generally during the autumn. The largest flocks were of modest size and included 70 at Parlington Park on 30th October; 102 at Redmires Res. on 4th November; 120 at Broadstones Lodge; 120 at Digley, and 200 at Broomhead Hall, all during early December.

#### **Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

A roost of 1,000 at Allerton Park during January. Flocks of 100 to 200 at eight localities in the early months, and 300 at Ringinglow on 8th February.

Some light inland passage during October; but good southerly passage at Spurn, with 10,898 from late September to mid-November, including 843 on 27th October. 200 at Filey on 13th and 24th, and 167 at Flamborough on 18th October.

Flocks during September of 400 at Deighton on 9th and 10th; 300 at Wath Ings on 11th, and Carlton Marsh on 18th; and a flock of 3,000 finches at Selby Brick Ponds on 27th August, and 17th September, was mainly this species, and Linnet *C. cannabina*, with lesser numbers of Redpoll *C. flammea*. Other autumn flocks of 100 to 200 at nine localities.

#### **Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

The majority of flocks of any size were during the autumn, with about 100 at three localities; 200 at Redmires Res.; and 150 each at Walmgate Stray, York, and Brighton on 25th September.

Southerly passage at Spurn in spring, and autumn, with peaks of 300 on 8th May; 265 on 4th, and 366 on 10th October.

#### **Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

Several substantial flocks in the early months, some of which were feeding in conifers, such as 200 at Percy Rig, Commodity on 6th; 250 at Strines on 19th; 200 at Broomhead on 22nd February, and 76 in Deffer Wood on 15th March. 200 at Sawdon on 12th February; 120 at Lindley Res. on 19th, and 30 to 60 at five other places.

Many singing birds in April and May in the Dalby and Staundale Forests, indicating a good breeding population. Small numbers in at least six woodlands in the west of V.C. 63. during the breeding season.

Six near Lunds in Garsdale on 6th September.

Southerly passage at Spurn totalled 1,146 from mid-September to late November, with peaks of 118 on 10th October, and 117 on 13th November.

Autumn flocks were generally of between 30 and 80, at 14 localities in V.C.s 61, 62, 63, and 64; and 150 were between Glasshouses and Wath on 29th November.

Additions to the 1979 Report: 120 in the Porter Valley on 17th November, and 150 at Broomhead on 7th December.

#### **Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

Flocks of from 100 to 300 at ten localities in the early months. At least 18 flocks of similar numbers during the autumn, plus 500 in the Wath Ings area on 12th September, and 400 at Blacktoft Sands in early October.

Some spring passage at Spurn, with a maximum of 856 on 17th April; and south during the autumn from 16th September to early November, a total of 14,314, with the maximum on 28th September of 1,465.

#### **Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

Generally scarce along the coast and in the lowlands; 25 at Barmston on 11th March, and at Cawood on 21st April were the largest flocks, in the early months.

Six at Semerwater on 8th February, well before the return to the breeding areas during late March, and early April. 14 over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 22nd March; 60 each at March Haigh and Broadstones on 4th April; 20 at Leeshaw Res. on 8th; 30 at Marley S.F. on 17th, and 25 at Pugney's G.P. on 26th April, 150 at Malham Tarn on 13th August, and 90 at Duck Street on 25th September.

150 at Broadstones, Ingbirchworth on 22nd August; up to 200 at Digley from 13th to 20th September, and 140 at Scammonden, and 60 at Lunesdale on 22nd. The last at any upland locality on 11th October, then small numbers at three lowland sites; plus on 1st November 50 at Easington lagoons, and 70 at Spurn on the Humber shore. 93 south at Spurn on 10th October.

#### **Redpoll *Carduelis flammea***

Scarcer in V.C. 61, especially near Hornsea, than it was a few years ago.

200 at Haxby in January, and 300 in March; 400 on Hatfield Moors on 21st February, and 8th March, and 230 on 5th April; 200 at Haw Park on 3rd May, and 50 to 150 at five other localities, in the early months.

Southerly passage at Spurn peaked on 10th October with 624, a very big proportion of the autumn total of 1,554.

143 at Fairburn Ings on 20th October, and flocks of from 50 to over 100 at seven other places, during the autumn.

Birds showing characters of Mealy Redpoll *C.f. flammea*, were singles at Thundercliffe Grange on 16th February; and a very white individual at Flamborough on 27th April; at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd October, and five there on 7th December; singles at Wheldrake Ings on 13th December, and Shiregreen on 26th. Varying numbers on 13 dates at Flamborough between 4th October and 23rd December, including eight on 10th and 11th October, and 20 on 1st November.

#### **Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

V.C. 61: Two at Tophill Low on 14th April; and singles at Spurn on 24th, and Flamborough on 29th August; and at Allerthorpe Common on 29th December, and two at Wheldrake Woods on 30th.

V.C. 62: 21 at Low Dalby on 1st; 20 at Percy Rig on 6th, and 18 at Sawdon on 12th February. Up to four at Sand Hutton from 4th to 20th March. Numerous in the Dalby and Staindale Forests in late March, including 50 in Flaxdale on 30th. Bred in these areas, and at Cropton Forest (HOB *et al.*). One killed by a car at Hovingham in mid-November.

V.C. 63: Two in Deffer Wood on 27th January, and 2nd May. Up to ten at Yateholme in February, then two on 22nd March, and four on 13th June. Regularly in the Langsett area including 24 on 15th March. Over 100 pairs bred in coniferous woodlands west of Sheffield. Five at Scammonden on 9th August.

V.C. 64: Up to 25 in the Washburn Valley, and 32 on Otley Chevin during February. A pair nested in the Washburn Valley, and birds were present until July, and small numbers were at eleven other sites in the first half of the year. Two at Brayton Barff on 18th August; seven at Lumley Moor on 8th November, and up to three at Eccup Res. at the year end.

#### **Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

A light coastal influx noted at Filey, Flamborough and Spurn during October, and early November.

One at Spurn from the 24th to 26th October of the Northern race *P.p. pyrrhula*.

Flocks as usual were quite small 32 being at Anchor Plain on 21st October, and 25 there in November and December; over 20 at Sprotbrough on 9th September, and 17 at Naburn S.W. on 14th December.

25 roosting at Headingley, Leeds between January and March.

#### **Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes***

V.C. 61: Singles at Fulford Ings on 8th February, and 9th October. An adult feeding a juvenile near Heslington Common on 12th June.

V.C. 62: Singles at Commandale on 21st March, and at Duncombe Park, Helmsley on 14th June. Seven at Lilling Wood on 17th February; one at Anchor Plain on 13th April; singles at Upper Helmsley from 19th to 24th May, with three on 23rd; two at Sand Hutton on 3rd June, and three near Farlington on 4th July.

V.C. 63: Up to six at Sprotbrough in most months. Three pairs bred in Melton Wood. One to four in five localities near Rotherham. 29 in March in a locality near Sheffield. Seven at Wintersett on 22nd June.

V.C. 64: Fairburn Ings had one to two on seven dates, from 19th March to 20th June; two on 22nd September; and one to three on eight dates from 17th November to 29th December. Six at Bishop Wood on 4th June, and at Ledston on 24th August. Up to 70 in the Fountains Abbey, and Studley Royal area during January and February. Two pairs bred again near Leeds, and one pair near Knottingley. Small numbers at a further 14 localities.

V.C. 65: One found dead at Hipswell School on 3rd March.

#### **Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

Good numbers in January, with 26 at Kilnsea on 1st (SML); 21 at Barmston on 18th (KR); 27 at Filey on 20th, and 12 at Fraisthorpe on 24th (SML). Apart from these, one to five at Flamborough, Withernsea, Easington, Cherry Cob, Sunk Island, and Spurn, which also had nine on 3rd January, and 15 moved south there on 1st February. Two at Flamborough on 4th May.

During the autumn, one to six at the same localities, and also at Atwick, Hollym and Skeffling. The first were two at Flamborough on 11th October, where there were seven on 1st November; 16 on 7th, and 12 on 13th (AMA, PAL *et al*). Spurn had nine on 18th October, then no more than three to the year end; and very light southerly passage, with a total of only 19, including eight on 22nd November.

Inland, singles overhead at Broomhead Moor on 8th November (DH, PG); at Fairburn Ings on 21st (GRW), and at Blacktoft Sands on 5th December.

#### **Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

The large flock of December 1980 was still present, with 700 at Easington on 4th January, and at Spurn early in the month, declining to 500 late in the month. Much lower maxima at Spurn later, with 185 on 1st February, and 110 on 25th, and 100 on 8th March, and the last, seven on 4th April. Five north at Scalby Mills on 7th January; 16 at Flamborough on 4th, and 15 at Barmston on 18th.

One at Spurn on 3rd October then increasing slowly, with up to 45 from the month end, and up to 100 in late November and December, plus 250 on 6th. A total of 370 flew south on 15 dates in October and November, including 112 on 21st and 128 on 22nd November.

Other autumn maxima: 60 at Kilnsea on 27th October; 30 at Filey on 8th November; 55 at Sunk Island on 22nd, and 17 at Hornsea Mere on 23rd; 185 at Atwick on 18th December, and 24 at Flamborough on 19th. Only singles at Scarborough, apart from four at Cornelian Bay on 22nd November.

Inland, singles at Whitley Common on 25th January and 22nd February; at Pugney's G.P. on 17th and 24th March; at Blacktoft Sands on 8th, and Fairburn Ings on 12th November. Two small flocks in Upper Wharfedale on 16th January, and a single on Fountains Fell on 27th. Two on Greenhow Hill on 15th November, and one on Heyshaw Moor on 15th and 17th.

#### **Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Substantial flocks of 200 at North Duffield Carrs on 1st January, and 190 on Hatfield Moors on 1st February, where there were 215 on 22nd December, were the largest in the County. Otherwise in the early months flocks of 50 to 100 at Welwick, Dunnington Common, the Rotherham area, Grenoside, Bradfield, Ewden, Hay-a-Park, and Clifford.

Slightly higher numbers in the autumn, with 120 each at Clayton West on 19th December, and at Thundercliffe Grange on 20th, and 50 to 80 at North Duffield, Flamborough, Spurn, Atwick, Thrybergh Res., and Sandmoor Golf Course at Leeds.

#### **Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*

One at Spurn on 7th and 8th September.

#### **Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

One at Flamborough on 18th May (PAL)

Not yet submitted to *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

### **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

The roost at Fulford Ings held 170 early in the year, and increased to 250 in February. 50 at Bentley Colliery on 11th January, and 100 on Hatfield Moors on 18th; 70 at Filey on 1st February, and 100 roosting at Monkton on 20th January.

Blacktoft Sands, where 160 pairs nested, had 400 in January, and 500 on 19th November. Other breeding counts of 69 pairs at Fairburn Ings; 60 at Mickletown Ings, and 69 at Wath Ings.

Typical autumn passage at Spurn, with peaks of southerly movement of 107 on 25th September, and 125 on 12th October. 60 at Filey on 24th October; 100 at North Duffield on 13th December, and 50 at Hornsea Mere on 19th.

### **Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*

In general, away from the coast, the highest counts were in roosts, with 60 at Fulford Ings in January, increasing to 147 on 14th February, then down to 85 on 26th; 50 at North Duffield on 4th January, and 70 at Ardsley Res. on 31st; 150 at Monkton on 13th February, and 49 at Fairburn Ings on 18th; and 120 at Wath Ings on 22nd April.

Filey had 360 on 1st January, increasing to 400 on 17th, and down to 200 on 1st February. 350 along the Humber between Welwick and Cherry Cob on 14th February, and 160 at Flamborough on 21st.

From 60 to 90 on various November and December dates at Fulford Ings, Denaby Ings, Wath Ings, and Riccall. Filey had 80 on 8th November, rising to 300 by 12th December, and 650 by 25th, during the severe weather. Also during the severe spell similar increases occurred at Spurn, with from 400 to 800 from 10th to 19th December, and a peak of 1,000 on 14th; at Stone Creek and Cherry Cob, with 140 and 110 respectively, on 6th December; and at Atwick with 250 on 18th December.

## Escaped Birds

All the birds in this section are those which have obviously escaped from captivity. Those which may or may not have had a wild origin, such as Snow Goose and other species of wildfowl which may have a feral origin, are included in the main list with appropriate proviso.

### **Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

One at Knotford Nook from 3rd August to 22nd October, and one at Thorpe Marsh during November.

### **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

One at Catfoss on 2nd May.

### **South African Shelduck** *Tadorna cana*

One at Whitton Sands from 13th to 28th June, and on 2nd August.

### **Radjah Shelduck** *Tadorna radjah*

One at Bolton Ings on 8th February.

### **Wood Duck** *Aix sponsa*

A pair at Linton Falls from 27th September to 11th October.

### **Reeve's Pheasant** *Syrmaticus reevesii*

A male at Follifoot during September and October.

### **Blue Peafowl** *Pavo cristatus*

One at Broomhill on 5th April.

### **Lorikeet** sp, probably *Trichoglossus* sp

One over Scalby Mills beck on 10th April.

### **Ring-necked Parakeet** *Palaeornis torquatus*

Singles at Scawthorpe on 18th May, and Wilsic on 9th August.

### **Cockatiel** *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Singles at Howell Wood on 30th April, and Hatfield on 13th September.

### **Barbary Dove** *Streptopelia roseogrisea*

One at Thrybergh Res. on 4th and 11th November.

### **Sudan Golden Sparrow** *Passer luteus*

One at Spurn on 3rd, 4th and 13th October.

### **Black-headed Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*

One flew south at Spurn on 12th October.

## Sabine's Gulls off Yorkshire in the winter of 1978/79

The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Ornithological Report for 1978 listed five December records of Sabine's Gulls *Larus sabini* off Flamborough Head and Spurn. The report for 1979 listed a February record off Filey Brigg but not eleven other winter and early spring observations from Flamborough Head and Bridlington which have had only a condensed mention in Wallace and Bourne (1981).

Off Yorkshire, the autumn of 1978 was brisk for sea-birds with a large movement of Sooty Shearwaters *Puffinus griseus* its most remarkable feature. I shared in the autumn observations at Flamborough Head and followed them up with my most intensive ever series of winter sea-watches, putting in particularly 17½ early morning hours on twelve days which coincided with strong northerly to easterly winds up to force ten (the classic Flamborough formula for unusual sea-birds). The outcome, in terms of Sabine's Gulls, was as follows:

Date	Wind	Adult	Birds/Ages		
			1st Winter	Unaged	Total
Jan 1 1979	NE5-4	1N			1
4	ESE3-8		1N		1
17	NEbyE7	1N			1
20	ESE8	2N, 1S			3
Feb 3	WSW3-5	1N			1
10	E7-8	1S, 2E	1N, 2E	1S	7
12	ENE9	2E			2
14	NEbyE9-10		1S		1
Mar 26	NE8-9	3SE			3
17	NEbyE8		1N (worn)		1
Apr 8	EbyS6	1N	3N (moulting)		4
11 days		15	9	1	25

On most occasions, the birds were seen within, or just beyond, the regular stream of gulls that rounds the head, and always in company with, or in the same watch as, similarly aged Kittiwakes *Rissa tridactyla*. Those tracking east and south-east had undoubtedly been in Bridlington Bay and the bird on 17th March was seen there. With two exceptions, all the birds passed the head early in the morning, with rough means of 0905 hrs in January, 0845 hrs in February, 0740 hrs on 16th March and 0750 hrs on 8th April. These timings smacked of the prompt attention to overnight onshore displacement that is typical of all pelagic species.

The above records with the December 1978 observations and the Spurn and Filey birds, add up to an overall series of 37 bird-days off nearly 50 miles of coast and constitute the most obvious winter presence of Sabine's Gull so far established for North Sea waters. In this respect, it should be noted that on 11th January I saw yet another adult off Kinnaird Head, Grampian (once again the product of a north-easterly gale) and that there was apparently an oiled bird at Hoveringham, Lincolnshire on 10th February (*Brit Birds* 72:298).

Where could all these Sabine's Gulls have come from? Generally it is assumed that autumn birds are blown 'side-ways' against west-facing coasts but to get into the North Sea in any season, their arrivals must surely be similar to those of other Arctic sea-birds, in the end mostly 'downwards' from northern waters. Normally these vectors fade in November but December 1978 provided many surprising sea-bird reports, with strong hints of tardy Grey Phalaropes *Phalaropus fulicarius* (*Brit Birds* 72:138) and their continued presence, along with skuas, in January 1979 (*Brit Birds* 72:197, 248) tells at least of stalled passage. That such can become a thin winter presence in the case of the phalarope has long been recognized (Witherby *et al* 1940). Significantly, the Sabine's Gull shares with the Grey Phalarope much the same normal summer and winter ranges (see Cramp and Simmons, 1983 for the best maps) and I believe that it too is

forced occasionally to winter in northern waters. There are published records as far back as at least 1909 (Baxter and Rintoul 1953) supporting this thought. Indeed the *Handbook* gave its status as 'scarce autumn and winter visitor, rarely spring and summer'.

My brief reference to the Flamborough Head Sabine's Gulls (Wallace and Bourne 1981) may have implied to some readers that all of them were different individuals. I doubt that they were; of 25 sightings, the north-bound and east or south-bound almost cancel out and there are striking repetitions of three adults on four dates and three first winters on three dates, two of which match two of the adult ratio. It may well be that the birds were loosely in touch with one other and that the stream of seven on 10th February was all or most of them.

Since 1973 I have had considerable experience of Sabine's Gulls off Flamborough Head, and prior to 1977 had 24 sightings off three English counties, Scilly and south-west Ireland, and had closely observed at least three in winter plumage in south-west Nigeria (*Ibis* 115: 564). I am grateful to the YNU Records Committee for this chance to retrieve the most interesting birds of my 1978/79 winter sea-watches.

D. I. M. Wallace

#### *References*

- Baxter, E. V. and Rintoul, L. J. 1953 *The Birds of Scotland*, Edinburgh.  
Witherby, H. F. et al. 1940 *The Handbook of British Birds*. Vol V, London.  
Cramp, S. and Simmons, K. E. L. 1983 *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. Vol III, Oxford.

## The Need For Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication or forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should be the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, and should include the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, previous experience of the species etc. Forms based upon the form accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any species listed below:

### Uncommon and Difficult Species

Black-throated Diver	Red-necked Phalarope
Great Northern Diver	Grey Phalarope
Red-necked Grebe	Pomarine Skua
Slavonian Grebe	Long-tailed Skua
Black-necked Grebe	Mediterranean Gull
Cory's Shearwater	Iceland Gull
Great Shearwater	Glaucous Gull
Storm Petrel	Sabine's Gull
Leach's Petrel	Roseate Tern
Bittern	Black Guillemot
Purple Heron	Woodlark
White Stork	Richard's Pipit
Spoonbill	Tawny Pipit
Bean Goose	Bluethroat
Ruddy Shelduck	Cetti's Warbler
Red-crested Pochard	Savi's Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Aquatic Warbler
Smew	Marsh Warbler
Ruddy Duck	Icterine Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Melodious Warbler
Red Kite	Barred Warbler
Goshawk	Yellow-browed Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Firecrest
Golden Eagle	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Osprey	Golden Oriole
Hobby	Chough
Spotted Crake	Raven
Stone Curlew	Serin
Kentish Plover	Scarlet Rosefinch
Dotterel	Lapland Bunting
Temminck's Stint	Cirl Bunting
Pectoral Sandpiper	Ortolan Bunting
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	

### British Birds Rarities

All rarities requiring submission to the British Birds Rarities Committee, last listed in *British Birds*, Vol. 67, 1974, pages 347-8.

### Races

All well-defined races of common species, eg: Blue-headed Wagtail, Water Pipit.

Descriptions should normally be furnished in support of records of migrant birds seen out of season, and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

## Local Reports

The following local society and club reports for 1981 have been received, and those readers requiring more detailed information on the areas concerned should consult these.

V.C. 61: *Filey Brigg Ornithological Group* — Classified List.

*Spurn Bird Observatory* — Classified List, Ringing Report, Migration summary, and accounts of exceptional rarities.

V.C. 61, 62 and 64: *York Ornithological Club* — Classified List, Status of Waders in the York area, and notes on rarities.

V.C. 63: *Blacktoft Sands Reserve* — Classified List.

*Bradford Naturalists' Society* — Classified List.

*Doncaster and District Ornithological Society* — Classified List and Ringing Report.

*Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club* — Classified List and Ringing Report.

*Rotherham and District Ornithological Society* — Classified List.

*Sheffield Bird Study Group* — Classified List.

*Wakefield Naturalists' Society* — Classified List and Ringing Report.

V.C. 64: *Castleford and District Naturalists' Society* — Classified List.

*Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve* — Classified List.

*Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society* — Classified List.

*Knaresborough Ringing Station* — Classified List and Ringing Report.

*Leeds Birdwatchers' Club* — Classified List.

*Wharfedale Naturalists' Society* — Classified List.

Classified Lists were also published for Carlton Marsh, Mickletown Ings and Thrybergh Reservoir, and similar lists were received from Bempton Cliffs Reserve, Flamborough Head, Hornsea Mere Reserve, Pugney's Gravel Pit, Tophill Low Reservoir, Welton Water, and Whitton Sands.

*The Lapwing*, the journal of the Doncaster and District Ornithological Society, number 14, contained a report on the 1980 Census of Rookeries in the Doncaster District, and notes on Yellow-billed Cuckoo specimen in Doncaster Museum (1981).

List of contributors whose initials appear in the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). Many other observers sent in records through their local societies, and their co-operation is much appreciated.

N. W. Addey; G. E. Alderson; K. Allison; A. M. Allport; C. E. Andrassey; R. H. Appleby; P. A. Ardron; B. Armitage; J. S. Armitage; R. Astle; Miss J. E. Atkinson; B. Benson; J. Barker; T. Barker; B. Bates; J. B. Baxter; J. Beaumont; M. A. Beevers; N. A. Bell; C. Bielby; C. Biltcliffe; R. P. Blagden; E. B. Blake; A. Botterill; K. Bower; T. Boyer; S. Boyes; P. Bradbury; P. Bradley; D. Braithwaite; S. Brough; G. R. Brown; J. D. H. Brown; H. O. Bunce; C. Butterfield; B. Caffrey; T. Cantwell; P. J. Carlton; G. Carr; G. A. Cartwright; G. P. Catley; J. M. Cattle; P. R. Chambers; A. Chapman; A. Clarke; M. Clarke; W. A. Clarke; J. C. Clarkson; K. Clarkson; P. M. Clegg; T. M. Clegg; I. Clough; S. Cochrane; T. I. Corbett; M. Corner; M. Coverdale; J. D. Coldwell; F. R. Cooper; R. P. Council; Mrs D. B. Craig; M. Craighill; P. Crookes; S. Crossland; I. Crouch; J. Cudworth; P. Cunningham; W. F. Curtis; D. B. Cutts; J. E. Dale; J. M. Dale; R. A. Davies; P. Daw; L. Degnam; A. Deighton; A. J. Dennison; S. Denny; M. L. Denton; A. Devitt; C. Devlin; L. G. Dewdney; B. Dickinson; T. E. Dixon; D. I. Dobson; P. A. Doherty; P. Dove; W. Dudhill; P. J. Dunn; A. J. Eades; T. Ede; T. England; R. Evison; A. M. Fahey; M. Fannon; M. Feather; C. Featherstone; B. Fendley; T. Feltham; M. G. Fenner; G. T. Foggett; G. W. Follows; D. Forbes; D. Ford; I. Forsyth; I. Francis; M. Francis; P. J. Freeman; R. Freer; M. G. H. Garnett; R. Gash; A. Gibson; P. K. Gill; R. Gill; D. J. Glaves; P. M. Glaves; J. Glendinning; T. Goodwin; C. Gorman; D. Gosney; W. Gott; B. Grant; J. Green; F. G. Grey; A. Grieve; M. J. Grunwell; R. Hardcastle; J. Harriman; P. Harrison; J. P. Hartley; S. Harvey; K. J. Hayhow; S. J. Hayhow; D. Herringshaw; J. Hewitt; P. Higson; A. Hill; D. G. Hobson; T. L. Hobson; S. T. Holliday; J. Hornbuckle; C. Horne; K. Horne; D. Hursthouse; C. & T. P. Inskip; D. S. Ives; P. W. Izzard; P. G. Jackson; J. J. Jackson; H. T. James; C. Johnson; C. G. Johnson; Mrs Kemp; P. Kirk; J. Knight; R. Knight; H. C. Laidlaw; M. R. Langston; P. A. Lassey; A. J. Last; R. Laverack; J. Law; J. H. Lawson; P. Leonard; R. Leslie; M. Limbert; S. M. Lister; V. A. Lister; I. Lonsdale; J. Lunn; R. Lyon; C. R. McKay; J. McLaughlin; C. J. McNaughton; S. C. Madge; D. Manchester; A. Marshall; D. Marshall; J. Martin; J. I. Martin; C. A. Mason; J. R. Mather; G. P. Mawson; J. Middleton; D. Midgley; P. Milson; E. A. Morley; P. L. Mountain; G. Neal; F. Nendrick; F. W. Oates; A. O'Neill; D. Page; J. Parkin; R. Parrish; B. S. & S. Pashby; K. Pearson; M. Pearson; B. G. Pepper; H. Pickering; D. M. Pierce; J. M. Pinder; P. Pirringer; A. Pitchford; J. A. Pollintine; A. Porter; S. Phillips; D. Proctor; I. J. Proctor; J. Rawcliffe; F. M. Remblance; R. J. Rhodes; T. Rhodes; K. Rich; B. Richards; T. Richardson; K. Ritch; A. Roadhouse; K. D. Robertson; C. C. Robinson; A. Robson; S. J. Roddis; I. D. Rotherham; K. Rotherham; N. E. Rotherham; R. J. Scott; G. Sellars; R. M. Sellars; N. P. Senior; G. Sharp; K. Shaw; G. Shentall; P. Shepherd; B. Shorrock; G. B. Silver; S. P. Singleton; R. Slack; C. Slater; C. Sollitt; G. Smith (Wakefield); G. Smith (York); Miss I. Smith; J. P. Smith; K. Smith; P. Smith; J. R. Smithson; G. J. Speight; B. R. Spence; P. Spencer; D. J. Standring; C. Straker; D. Suddaby; F. J. Thompson; M. A. Thompson; F. Tidd; B. Townend; P. T. Treloar; S. Turner; J. M. Turton; R. Twigg; C. G. Varty; M. Vickers; A. F. G. Walker; C. Wall; D. I. M. Wallace; D. Walters; J. Ward; F. A. Wardman; P. Warham; M. J. Warrington; D. R. J. Watkins; B. & F. J. Watson; D. Waudby; T. Webster; G. R. & H. J. Welch; C. R. Wheeway; H. J. Whitehead; F. A. W. Whitford; D. J. Williams; M. D. Williams; R. D. R. Williams; C. Winn; J. A. Wint; J. Wood; P. B. Wordsworth; J. Wozencraft; P. Wragg; G. M. Yates; P. Young.

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